

French take problems to Citizen Blair



Blair mobbed by media

TONY BLAIR'S holiday on the Continent has prompted a string of letters to Downing Street from Italian and French citizens asking him to solve a variety of local problems from poor roads to overcrowded schools.

The constituency-style postbag awaiting the Prime Minister when he returns to work tomorrow is the latest evidence of his new status on the Continent, after a three-week holiday during which he has been fêted by his hosts, showered with gifts and mobbed by the local media.

In the past fortnight alone some 25 letters have been sent to Mr Blair's office from Europe, ranging from fan mail to requests for help. Several letters have been received bemoaning specific dif-

Ben Macintyre on the continental postbag awaiting the Prime Minister's return

culties with the French education system and asking Mr Blair to intercede. Another letter requested that he put pressure on MPs to improve roads near the letter-writer's home. Yet another drew his attention to the jams caused by summer tourist traffic.

"Obviously, there's a limit to what he can do," a Downing Street spokesman said, adding that the letters would be passed to the relevant authorities abroad. Mr Blair has even been asked to open a school in Provence, a request that will be declined in deference to the sensitivities of French politicians.

When Mr Blair spent his last

holiday in France, he was a little-known foreign MP, but since Labour's election victory he has been transformed into an almost mythical figure in the eyes of many Europeans. At least 20 Italian journalists and six camera crews were waiting when the Blair's arrived in Tuscany this summer. A similar posse was on hand for their sojourn in St Martin d'Oydes in southwest France.

Mr Blair's walkabout in the village on Friday was reminiscent of the election campaign, with locals demanding that he kiss their babies, drink their coffee and generally bestow his benediction.

"I'm sure he will be able to get us a café in the village. We really need one," one elderly resident declared.

His popularity led to at least one potentially embarrassing incident. On Friday, before massed French television cameras, one enthusiastic local politician declared: "Monsieur Blair, you are now the ambassador to the world for the Arge region of France." Lionel Jospin, the Socialist Prime Minister of France, who was standing next to Mr Blair, might reasonably have supposed that such a title was his as his constituency, Cintegabelle, is just 20 miles away.

But it was another sign of Mr Blair's pulling power that M Jospin was there at all, since Friday's meeting was arranged at the request of M Jospin. It was billed as an informal and impromptu get-together over lunch, even though the French Prime Minister had to break away from a papal visit and political decisions in Paris and fly 400 miles south.

M Jospin's Socialist party criticised the Pope on his visit. Mr Blair, by contrast, was treated with unalloyed reverence. The lunch was reported in every national paper in France.

Not to be outdone, Jacques

Chirac, the French President, made a point of telephoning Mr Blair last week to discuss Anglo-French relations and wish the Prime Minister *bonnes vacances*.

Escaping from the attentions of the French media behind the walls of his rented chateau, Mr Blair said that he was surprised at the level of interest aroused by his visit. "Still, it does no harm. At least it means that, in France, you're a face," he said.

When asked whether M Jospin would be accorded the same treatment if he turned up for a holiday in, say, Mr Blair's constituency of Sedgefield, the Prime Minister was diplomatically oblique: "There are some lovely places in and around Sedgefield," he said.

Haughey damned over £1.3m gift

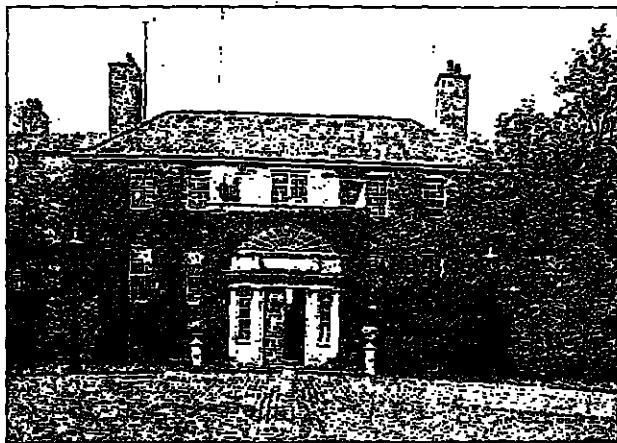
Former Taoiseach accused of breaking law, Martin Fletcher reports

CHARLES HAUGHEY faced prosecution and financial ruin yesterday after an independent tribunal issued a report accusing the former Taoiseach of lying, tax evasion and probable criminal obstruction of its investigation.

Mr Justice McCracken, the tribunal's chairman, said he was sending the Director of Public Prosecutions evidence that Mr Haughey broke the law by repeatedly lying to the tribunal about the £1.3 million he received from Ben Dunne, the former chairman of Ireland's largest retail chain. Mr Haughey faces two years in prison and a £10,000 fine.

The report asserts that Mr Haughey "deliberately shrouded the gifts in secrecy and allowed the money to be kept offshore" in order to conceal them from the taxman. Ireland's Revenue Commissioners attended the tribunal's hearings, took copious notes, and are now likely to demand as much as £1 million from Mr Haughey in unpaid taxes and penalties. Legal experts said he could also face up to £100,000 in legal costs following what Mr Justice McCracken euphemistically termed his "most unhelpful" behaviour.

Bertie Ahern, the present Taoiseach, said he was "deeply dismayed" by Mr



Mr Haughey's 200-year-old mansion at Kinsealy

Haughey's "indefensible and disgraceful" conduct and moved quickly to limit the political damage caused by his former Fianna Fáil mentor. He promised to rush legislation through the Dail to establish a permanent, powerful watchdog body to investigate allegations of impropriety. He said the Government would meet on Thursday to consider opposition demands for a second tribunal with much wider terms of reference. John Bruton, the Fine Gael Party leader, said the McCracken tribunal had investigated only one donor and three of the 25 years during which Mr Haughey maintained a lavish lifestyle while

in and out of office. Given the potential for corruption in the manner in which Mr Haughey conducted his financial affairs and paid for his lifestyle must be brought out into the open.

The McCracken report, one of the most damning indictments of an Irish public figure to be published, said that between 1987 and 1991, Mr Dunne made four payments to the then Taoiseach through a Cayman Islands account, and personally handed him three bankers' drafts worth another £210,000 during a visit to his County Dublin mansion. Mr Haughey was in financial trouble at the time.

There was no evidence that

Mr Haughey gave political favours in return but such gifts were "quite unacceptable", the report said. The potential for bribery and corruption was "enormous", and "by allowing himself to be put in a position of dependency, Mr Charles Haughey failed in his obligations to his constituents and to the citizens of this State and indeed has devalued some of the undoubtedly valuable work which he did when in office".

But the report's most damning passages dealt with the manner in which Mr Haughey persistently denied receiving gifts from Mr Dunne — until the tribunal dug up irrefutable evidence to the contrary — and then sought to explain them away.

The report repeatedly dismissed his evidence to the tribunal as "quite unbelievable", "quite incredible", or simply "untrue". It rejected out of hand Mr Haughey's claims that he knew nothing about his financial affairs as they were managed by an accountant friend; that he was unaware of the extent of Mr Dunne's largesse; and that he had no recollection of Mr Dunne personally handing him the bankers' drafts.

Mr Dunne claimed he helped Mr Haughey because he regarded him highly and felt the Taoiseach should not



Mr Haughey and his wife, Maureen, at Kinsealy. He could face demands for £1m

have financial problems. Mr Justice McCracken suggested it was also "to buy the friendship... of a person in a very powerful political position".

Over the years, numerous allegations of political favouritism towards wealthy business associates were levelled against Mr Haughey,

and these may now be investigated. The McCracken report provided at least a partial answer to one of the great mysteries about Mr Haughey, which was how a man of humble origins who earned no more than £75,000 a year, even as Taoiseach, acquired such obvious wealth.

"Ask my bank manager," was all he would ever say when journalists quizzed him about his majestic, 200-year-old mansion near Dublin, his private island off Co Kerry, accessible only by helicopter, his 50ft ketch, his racehorses, his wonderful wine cellar and his opulent lifestyle.

Brown to take up campaign role in Scots poll

By NICHOLAS WATT AND GILLIAN BOWDITCH

GORDON BROWN is being drafted in this week to spearhead Labour's campaign for a double "Yes" vote in the Scottish devolution referendum.

The Chancellor, MP for Dunfermline East, who passionately supports the creation of a Scottish parliament, will have a "very high profile throughout Scotland" in the run-up to the referendum, according to a Labour source. On September 11, voters in Scotland will be asked if they want a Scottish parliament set up and whether it should have law-making powers.

Donald Dewar, the Scottish Secretary, had a difficult time last week when the Labour "Yes Yes" campaign was overshadowed by allegations of "leakage" in the Labour Party. A senior party spokesman said: "We are not disguising the fact that the campaign has faltered because of Paisley."

However, the spokesman insisted yesterday that Mr Dewar was held in high regard by the Labour leadership. He will play a crucial role in wooing the business community this week and his ministerial team will continue to run the campaign on a day-to-day basis.

Mr Brown, who returns from holiday this week, will attend the daily campaign strategy meeting in Glasgow when he is not out on the road.

The Labour spokesman said: "Gordon is a great strategist, adding that Mr Brown wanted to complete the work left unfinished by the late John Smith. The Labour spokesman said: "Gordon believes that the build-up to polling day is the vital period. He will be selling the message as a Scottish MP and as the Chancellor."

Towards the end of next week, the Prime Minister will travel to Scotland for two days of campaigning. Tony Graham, the West Renfrewshire MP suspended by the Labour Party last week, yesterday dropped plans to call a press conference, after being threatened with expulsion if he went ahead. Mr Graham was suspended pending an investigation into allegations that he had been spreading rumours about the late Gordon McMaster, who was cleared of playing any part in causing the Paisley South MP's suicide.

Tory think-tank urges one member, one vote

By JAMES LANDALE, POLITICAL REPORTER

WILLIAM HAGUE will face calls this week for a comprehensive reform of the Conservative Party to give individual members a greater say in the selection of their leader.

In a paper to be published this week by the Bow Group, the Tory think-tank encompassing all wings of the party, he will also be urged to give grassroots members the formal power to deselect their MPs and a central role in the development of policy.

The Labour-style changes would transform the balance of power within the party away from Westminster and towards the constituencies, and is likely to be fiercely

opposed by MPs. The paper covers all aspects of party reorganisation. It goes much further than Mr Hague's own ideas for reform outlined in a speech last month, which the party leader will promote in a national tour in September. The document, seen by *The Times*, has been sent to Lord Parkinson, the Tory chairman, and its authors will make a presentation of their findings on September 3 to Archie Norman, the Tory vice-chairman heading a taskforce to reform party structures.

The paper calls for a direct one member, one vote system of electing the party leader. It also calls for MPs to face

mandatory reselection procedures before every election. Constituency parties would be given formal powers to initiate deselection procedures. Currently, most local parties have *ad hoc* rules which make the procedure difficult.

Moreover, the paper urges greater grassroots involvement in policymaking on a continuous basis. This would be centred upon the creation of Members' Policy Development Forums, which would draw up "manifestos" to be sent to the Shadow Cabinet. Shadow Ministers would be obliged to reply and their responses would be available to members.



Mr Brodie and his son, Charles, were swept overboard

Waders save man

Continued from page 1

for his son was continuing last night.

Mr Brodie and his son, who were on a family holiday at a caravan park at Abergele, set sail from Rhos-on-Sea shortly before noon on Sunday and were reported overdue nine

hours later. Fears for their safety grew when a seat cushion, spare wheel, fuel tank and bucket used for fishing bait were spotted in the sea off Little Orme Head.

Mr Brodie's trouser waders have a built-in shoe and tie above the waist.

Whitehall action

Continued from page 1

the handling of Montserrat. Baroness Symons of Vernham Dean, who has responsibility for North America and the Caribbean, initially took charge of the Government's response. The Labour MP, who would not be named, said that he was "gobsmacked" when the newly-created Department for International Development took over.

He said: "There has been a huge turf war with the Department for International Development hijacking the issue with disastrous results. Clare Short wanted to establish her Whitehall space."

The new department came in for criticism before Ms Short's remarks. George Foulkes, her deputy, had issued a warning that there would be a "cataclysmic eruption on the island". Islanders

said that Mr Foulkes would not be welcome after Montserrat scientists said that he had misinterpreted data and that the risk was negligible.

Ms Short will decide in the next 24 hours whether Mr Foulkes should visit Montserrat after ruling out visiting the island herself.

A senior Labour source said that the decision to set up a Whitehall action group was an example of how Mr Blair will make his presence felt when he returns tonight. The Prime Minister will spend the next few days working at Chequers.

The spokesman said: "If there are any loose ends that need tidying up that will be done in hours. When Tony Blair returns nobody is going to be in any doubt that the Prime Minister is back."

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DELL

Blair

Mother fined £400 for false rape claim

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA AND DANIEL MCGROARY

AN ENGLISH mother of four was allowed to go free from a court in Cyprus yesterday after being fined £400 for making a bogus rape claim against an hotel worker in the hope of making money on her holiday insurance.

Susan Warburton, 30, from Hazel Grove, near Manchester, and her boyfriend, Paul Shearsmith, 26, had earlier been warned by British diplomats that they faced imprisonment from Cypriot authorities if they made false insurance claims. Annette Mangun, 22, from Ireland, was jailed for four months earlier this month for making a bogus rape allegation.

As Warburton was allowed to fly home, saying, "I just want to get back to my children," the same judge in Nicosia fined three other British and a Norwegian £280 each for trying to defraud their insurance companies. He told them that police were wasting their time dealing with at least 30 fraudulent claims a day.

Chief Superintendent Savvas Herodotou of the Famagusta police, said last night: "Tourists should realise that they cannot get away with this. We are not complete fools."

Cyprus has said that it will deal harshly with those who threaten its reputation as a

INSURANCE

Insurers have set up an investigation unit to uncover bogus claimants, who cost over £50 million a year. The industry estimates it is impossible to precisely gauge the size of the fraud. The Association of British Insurers said, false claims added 10 per cent to holiday insurance. Popular holiday destinations like Cyprus had become a favourite target for bogus claims. Most bills are for lost baggage or possessions that are hard to disprove but many are medical claims - one woman claimed five times to have an eye removed, another for 17 appendectomies.

and a white see-through blouse, she gripped hold of the dock as Judge Michaelis Christodoulou admonished her for accusing an innocent man of rape.

She had claimed that she was raped in her hotel room in Protaras by the owner's son, 23, who has a six-month-old child. His father said: "It is impossible to describe what my son felt when he heard these accusations."

Local sentiment suggests that the couple can consider themselves fortunate to escape with a fine. In citing his reasons for clemency, the judge did not mention that she had four children, aged from five to 13, left at home with her mother, but emphasised that the couple had swiftly confessed their guilt and neither had a criminal record.

They had both pleaded guilty when they first appeared in court on Friday and Warburton left the dock sobbing and shouting to the judge, "Please take pity on me, I won't do it again." Over the weekend consular officials had warned her to expect a year in jail and a £1,150 fine.

Lawyers for Annette Mangun said they hoped that the clemency shown to Warburton might earn her a pardon. She made a false rape claim against an Irish tourist and two Irish troops with the UN peacekeeping force.

Mr Herodotou said: "We can easily see through their false claims. Often they report a camera or a watch stolen, then we go to their apartment and find it there. It is also insulting that this should be known as a place where a woman cannot walk alone."

Laase Wagien, 46, from Norway, was fined £280 yesterday after maintaining that he had been held up on a dirt road by members of the Mafia who robbed him of £170. "Who has ever heard of the Italian mafia operating here? It is crazy," Mr Herodotou said.



Mission statement: Janet Rogan is learning Serbo-Croat before taking up her new posting as Britain's deputy ambassador in Sarajevo

New face of British diplomacy

Women are rapidly reaching the upper levels of a male-dominated service, reports Nicholas Wood

A SINGLE woman aged 34 has been made Britain's deputy ambassador in Sarajevo and signs that the traditional male domination of the Diplomatic Service is being eroded.

Janet Rogan is one of a group of young women who are breaking into the upper ranks of a service where until as recently as 1972 marriage meant the end of their career.

Three others have landed senior posts at British embassies. Liz Galvez, 45, becomes deputy ambassador in Bucharest and Nicola Brewer, 39, and Alexandra Hall, 33, are to play key roles at the High Commission in Delhi.

Mrs Brewer becomes a

joint number three at ambassador level and Miss Hall will be a first secretary with responsibility for internal Indian politics.

The latest figures from the Foreign Office show that women are steadily making inroads at the top level of the Diplomatic Service.

Over the past five years, the percentage at grade 5 (or first secretary level) has risen from 11 per cent to 16 per cent. At grade 2, or senior ambassador level, the figure is up from 3 per cent in 1994 to 12 per cent.

The United Kingdom now

has nine women heading its overseas missions, including those in Cape Town, Dublin and The Hague.

Miss Rogan learnt Chinese before her first posting to Peking in 1991. She is now studying the formidably difficult Serbo-Croat language before taking up her new position in the war-torn Bosnian capital.

She said that Sarajevo had been her first choice for a new posting and she was looking forward to the challenges posed by the delicate internal politics of the former Yugoslavia. She had few

qualms about the physical dangers of the country, although she recognised that the ever-present threat of landmines meant that there would be few chances for her to move off the beaten track.

Being single helped, she said. "It makes it easier to go to a place like Sarajevo."

"I have almost no personal life at all so there's nothing to stop me. I have had very different responses from my friends."

"Some say, 'Oh my God, never mind,' and others, 'Brilliant, you must be thrilled.' It depends on how

well they know me. As for danger, that is something you have to take as it comes."

Miss Rogan said that she did not believe there was a bias against women in the Diplomatic Service.

"I like to get stuck into everything I am doing. If you do a good job, somebody will look at you as the person doing a good job, rather than as a man or a woman," she said.

"I do feel it would be nice if there were more senior women but intellectually I know that it takes so long to work through the structure. You just cannot vault into these positions over so many senior people. It's a very boring and gradual process."



Susan Warburton and Paul Shearsmith leaving court. They had hoped to claim on their holiday insurance.

Murdered schoolboy might have known killer, say police

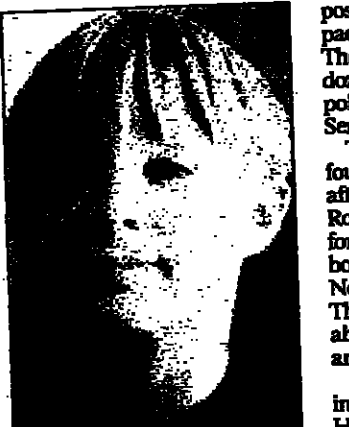
Thomas had many older friends and detectives are compiling a list of his acquaintances, writes Joanna Bale

THE murdered schoolboy Thomas Marshall might have known his killer, Superintendent Les Parrett, who is leading the inquiry into the murder of the Norfolk 12-year-old, said that detectives were concentrating on establishing the names of everyone he associated with. He disclosed that Thomas had many older friends in Happisburgh and its surrounding villages.

"It may be by pre-arrangement that Thomas met his killer and something went horribly wrong. Like most children his age, he probably did not tell his parents absolutely everything. We do need to speak to all his friends and associates, not just in terms of potential suspects but also of trying to find out what Thomas was up to," Mr Parrett said.

"We have identified a core of friends that he's known for a considerable period of time. We are also aware of older associates from the area in their late teens and a bit older. He added that whoever killed Thomas would have had access to a motor vehicle to be able to dump his body 50 miles away, near Thetford."

Thomas told his parents that he was cycling to meet his friend Adrian Smith, 16, at his home in the neighbouring seaside village of Eccles when he disappeared on Thursday.



Thomas Marshall: said he was off to see friend

still interviewing Thomas's parents, John, a Norfolk County Council archivist, and Carol, a librarian.

Mr Parrett said: "We are using officers trained in cognitive interview methods to get a detailed recollection of anything significant that Thomas may have told them."

Norfolk police are also considering bringing in a forensic psychologist to work out an offender profile of the killer. They have not discounted the

possibility that it was a paedophile who snatched Thomas and have received dozens of calls from other police forces and the Prison Service about offenders.

Thomas, an only child, was found strangled on Friday afternoon in a bracken at Roughton Heath, near Thetford, 50 yards off the south-bound carriageway of the A11 Norwich to London road. There were no signs of sexual abuse, although forensic tests are still being carried out.

His pink bicycle was found in a field three miles from Happisburgh two hours before his body was discovered.

Thomas's father told a local newspaper on Friday morning that his son had promised to stay at home on Friday to look after a new pet kitten which had been bought for him after the family cat had been run over three weeks earlier.

Mr Marshall was quoted as saying: "When he went off on his bike on Thursday afternoon we told him he must be back by 9pm because the next day he was going to babysit the new kitten."

Libby Purves, page 16

Arson suspected at mansion

By Robin Young

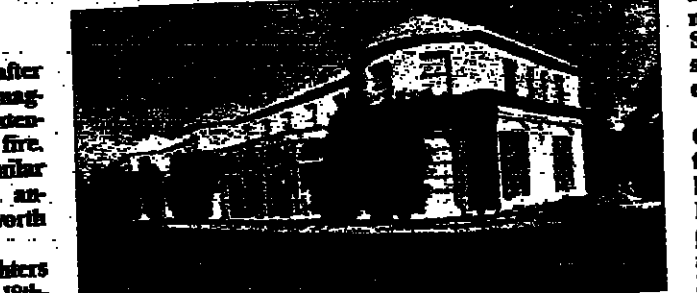
ARSON is suspected after one of Britain's most magnificent houses was extensively damaged by fire, seven years after a similar blaze there destroyed antiques and paintings worth more than £50 million.

More than 60 firefighters tackled the blaze at the 18th-century Dropmore House at Burnham, Buckinghamshire. It belongs to Muhammad Mahdi al-Tajir, a former Ambassador to London for the United Arab Emirates, whose wealth is estimated at well over £2 billion. The described house has seldom been visited by its 65-year-old owner.

Yesterday police put the damage to the mansion, which was still being renovated and restored after the last fire, at many hundreds of thousands of pounds. Divisional Officer Malcolm Ash, of Buckinghamshire Fire Brigade, said that several seats of fire had been found in the property, which was capped in tarps. "It definitely looks like arson," he said. "Scene-of-crime

officers are investigating the cause." In 1990, more than £50 million damage was caused to the house and its contents.

Dropmore, set in a 195-acre estate landscaped by Capability Brown, has three storeys and more than 50 rooms, many of which in 1990 were crammed with



Dropmore House: second fire within seven years

antiques, paintings and furniture. Detectives from Slough CID were yesterday sifting through the blackened shell for clues.

Dropmore was built for George III's Prime Minister, Lord Grenville, and was home of the first Viscount Kemsley. In 1989 it was placed on the market at an asking price of £12 million but failed to find a buyer.

Mr al-Tajir, who lives principally in Dubai, owns houses in London, Paris and Texas and has a castle in Scotland. When Dropmore last burnt it was one of 30 homes, including seven in Britain, then owned by the sheikh, who was estimated to be the world's sixth richest man. Others included Windlesham Moor at Bagshot, Surrey.

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Journalist in 'Libyan cash' bugging may sue MI5

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

A SENIOR journalist on *The Guardian*, pleaded under surveillance by MI5 after she allowed £250,000 to be deposited in her bank account by the former head of the Ghanian Security Service, is considering suing the intelligence agency.

Victoria Brittain, the paper's deputy foreign editor, has given a full explanation to her Editor, Alan Rusbridger, for the decision that landed her in the middle of a full-scale MI5 surveillance operation in the early 1990s. Backed by her lawyer, Geoffrey Bindman, she said that she was wholly innocent of the charge, investigated by MI5 "watchers", that she knew the money was linked in any way to Libyan intelligence.

According to David Shayler, a former *Sunday Times* journalist who retired as an intelligence officer with the Security Service five months ago, MI5 suspected that the large sums of money were being laundered by the Libyans through her account.

Ms Brittain's explanation, which she gave in a long conversation with Mr Rusbridger after Mr Shayler's disclosures were published in a *Sunday* newspaper, was that she had agreed to accept the deposits in her account from her longstanding friend, Kojou Tsikata, who was suing *The Independent* for libel. Mr Tsikata had asked to use her account so as to be able to pay the solicitor acting for him in the libel case — Mr Bindman. Camilla Nicholls, speaking for Mr Rusbridger, who was



Brittain explained situation to editor

not at his office yesterday, said that he "wholeheartedly" supported Ms Brittain and accepted her explanation. She said that Ms Brittain was now considering taking action against MI5 for mounting a surveillance operation against her which amounted to an invasion of her privacy.

Under the Security Service Act, anyone with a complaint against MI5 can appeal to a tribunal if he or she "is aggrieved by anything which he believes the service has done in relation to him or to any property of his". The tribunal must first establish whether the complainant has been the subject of inquiries by MI5, which has a legal duty under the Act to provide whatever information is re-

quired. If a complaint is upheld, the tribunal has the power to order records to be destroyed and compensation paid.

The libel case, in which *The Independent* is still involved, began when Mr Tsikata objected to an article which reported the findings of an investigation in Ghana in 1992 in which he was named as a suspect in the murder of three High Court judges. Mr Tsikata was never prosecuted because Ghana's Attorney-General said there was insufficient evidence.

The Independent claimed qualified privilege for the article, which was written by Karl Maier, an old Africa hand, who was helped by Richard Dowden, a senior journalist on the newspaper.

Despite Mr Rusbridger's backing for Ms Brittain, journalists on *The Independent* considered her to be very naive to allow such large sums of money to be deposited in her bank account, even by a friend whom she had known for 20 years.

Although there was embarrassment at *The Guardian* and *The Independent* over the case, involving a man who had allegedly boosted a *Guardian* journalist's bank account by such large sums, Colin Hughes, deputy editor of *The Independent*, said yesterday: "We don't believe there is any desire on *The Guardian*'s part to do *The Independent* down."

When MI5 received a tip-off that £100,000 had suddenly appeared in Ms Brittain's account in 1993, followed by further deposits amounting to a total of £250,000, it suspected that the money was being laundered through Libyan intelligence.

Although nobody has explained why, or even whether, there was a link between Mr Tsikata and Libyan intelligence, Mr Shayler, the former MI5 officer, claimed Security Service inquiries discovered that some of the money had come from the Libyan Arab Foreign Bank and from Khalifa Ahmed Bazelya, head of the Libyan interest section at the Saudi Arabian Embassy in London. The Libyan authorities, it appeared, were generously paying Mr Tsikata's legal fees.

As a result, a tap was placed on Ms Brittain's home telephone number in Islington, North London, and in 1995, after a lengthy listening operation, MI5 decided to bug her house, which meant breaking in. The MI5 operation included watching from a section tailing her wherever she went. Her code name for the operation, according to Mr Shayler, was Shadower. The operation was called off because of the risks involved. Mr Shayler estimated the surveillance had cost about £750,000.

Ms Brittain declined to comment yesterday.

Freelance who became expert on Third World

AS A journalist, Victoria Brittain has always been devoted to Africa, particularly Ghana. Her first national newspaper job in the region was when she was taken on as a "stringer" for *The Guardian* in Nairobi in 1976.

She was then married to Peter Sharrock, the Reuters correspondent in Nairobi, although the marriage broke down and she returned to London in 1979, where she acquired a reputation for her expertise on the Third World.

In 1986 she had married Andrew Knight, who became editor of *The Economist*, chief executive of *Daily Telegraph* plc and, latterly, chairman of News International, whose subsidiary is Times Newspapers. Their marriage was dissolved. Ms Brittain now lives in Islington.

Ms Brittain, who is

now single, has been a journalist with *The Guardian* for more than 20 years. She was formerly foreign news editor and assistant foreign editor and has served as a correspondent for the paper in five different countries in East Africa. She was also editor of the *Third World Review*, a section of *The Guardian*. Before she joined the newspaper, she worked for *The Times* abroad, including Washington, and was ITN's first woman reporter.

She has written books on Africa and one, *Death of Dignity*, about Angola, is to be published soon. One of her two previously published books was called *Hidden Lives*. *Hidden Deaths*, which argued that black Africa was constantly undermined by the activities of the white South African Government.

Although nobody has explained why, or even whether, there was a link between Mr Tsikata and Libyan intelligence, Mr Shayler, the former MI5 officer, claimed Security Service inquiries discovered that some of the money had come from the Libyan Arab Foreign Bank and from Khalifa Ahmed Bazelya, head of the Libyan interest section at the Saudi Arabian Embassy in London. The Libyan authorities, it appeared, were generously paying Mr Tsikata's legal fees.

As a result, a tap was placed on Ms Brittain's home telephone number in Islington, North London, and in 1995, after a lengthy listening operation, MI5 decided to bug her house, which meant breaking in. The MI5 operation included watching from a section tailing her wherever she went. Her code name for the operation, according to Mr Shayler, was Shadower. The operation was called off because of the risks involved. Mr Shayler estimated the surveillance had cost about £750,000.

Ms Brittain declined to comment yesterday.



The production of *Fairgame* at the Theatre Royal, Plymouth, last year. The play opens in London in October

Charities alarmed at casting of children in 'gang rape' play

The Royal Court Theatre plans

to use boys and girls as young as 13

on stage, reports Dalya Alberge

THE Royal Court Theatre is bracing itself for a stormy reception to a play about a gang rape carried out by children. It is believed that boys and girls as young as 13 will be cast.

Although the theatre in Chelsea has regularly shocked and outraged audiences with hard-hitting and explicit plays, Carl Miller, the play's director, refused to discuss it before casting had begun to avoid alarming the children's parents.

But children's charities voiced concern yesterday about how such subject matter would be tackled.

Fairgame is an adaptation by a young British playwright, Rebecca Pritchard, of *Games in the Backyard*, a play by a leading Israeli writer, Edna Mayza, which was premiered at the Municipal Theatre of Haifa in 1991.

Yesterday, from her home in Tel Aviv, Ms Mayza expressed surprise at learning of the Royal Court's plans to use such young performers. Although she approves of the

Royal Court's adaptation, she feels it is more violent. "While mine was very stylistic, they have made theirs more realistic. There is a rape on stage."

She noted that the adaptation had also lowered the age of the children. "They are younger. In my play, they are 16 and 17. In her play, 13. I think." The Haifa premiere had selected actors who looked younger than their actual ages — all were in their early twenties.

Ms Mayza agreed the subject was "distressing". "But, if the parents allow it... it's interesting. Young people today do know everything about sex, drugs and violence."

The story is loosely based

on a rape which took place on a kibbutz — an incident that had shocked the Israeli public and brought the country's justice system under intense scrutiny.

Among those who have expressed concern about the casting of children is John Rea Price, director of the National Children's Bureau. He said it raised issues of what is legitimate public education and at what point the involvement of children threatened their own welfare. "If this is children involved in acts of sexual assault — and these children are minors — there are issues that have to be thought about for the children's welfare."

A spokeswoman for Children's Rights said: "We are concerned but it depends on how the scenes are going to be depicted. We need to ask a lot more questions, such as how they will be prepared for such a difficult subject."

The original play, translated several times, has toured Europe, with the characters and place names changed to local names. The British premiere was given by the Theatre Royal in Plymouth last year.

Fairgame will be performed at the Royal Court in October. The Royal Court has often caused controversy. In 1995, it came under attack for staging a play that critics damned for its explicit sex and violence.

Sarah Kane's *Blasted*, featuring a character's eyes and tongue being gouged out and eaten, was condemned as a "disgusting feast of filth". In 1978, the theatre was criticised over a plan for 15-year-old children to play homosexuals.

Review is ordered in case of M25 robbers

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

TWO members of a robbery gang who were convicted of murder seven years ago are to have their case reopened by an independent police investigation.

Fears that the men may have been victims of a miscarriage of justice has prompted the Criminal Cases Review Commission to order a new inquiry into the original investigation. Greater Manchester Police will review the case against two of the three men convicted in 1990 of a series of violent attacks near the M25 which culminated in the murder of Peter Hurburgh, a hairdresser.

Mr Hurburgh and his partner, Alan Eley, were dragged from a parked car at gunpoint, beaten, doused with petrol and robbed of £10. Mr Hurburgh later died and the gang was charged with murder.

Raphael Rowe, 29, and Michael Davis, 30, both from Sydenham, South London, and Randolph Johnson, 32, were convicted of his murder and of a series of robberies near the M25 in Surrey. The review concerns only Rowe and Johnson, neither of whom were identified by Mr Eley or any of the other robbery victims. No forensic evidence linked them to the offences.

An earlier appeal in 1992 was unsuccessful after judges ruled that undisclosed police notes which cast doubt on the identity of the attackers were not a "material irregularity".

The new inquiry will review all representations made on behalf of the two men, the original Surrey police investigation and any other issue relating to the case. Its findings will be studied by the commission before a decision is made on whether to refer the case to the Court of Appeal.

The commission took over responsibility for alleged miscarriages of justice from the Home Office in April. It is the first time it has called for a fresh police investigation.

Andrew Mawdsley, for the commission, said he did not know how long the investigation would last. He said: "We could have had it investigated by Surrey Police, who dealt with the case, but it was felt more appropriate for it to be referred to an outside force."

Rowe, speaking from Maidstone jail in Kent, said that he welcomed the inquiry but expressed concern that it would be conducted by the police.

Crossword victory for maths teacher

A FIELD of 346 competitors took part in the 1997 Times Crossword Championship at the Royal Festival Hall in London yesterday in conjunction with the Mind Sports Olympiad. The title was won by David Howells, 44, an assistant head of maths from Leeds, who solved each of the four puzzles in an average time of less than ten minutes.

The runner-up was Alistair Sutherland, 61, a retired GP and genealogist from Glasgow, and third was Michael Wareham, 56, a retired headmaster from Edinburgh, with an average solution time of ten minutes.

CAROL MIDGLEY AT THE EDINBURGH INTERNATIONAL TELEVISION FESTIVAL

Keep up tough questioning, Chris Smith tells Paxman

JOHN BIRT had been wrong to criticise "aggressive" political interviews, who were vital to democracy, Chris Smith, the Culture Secretary, said yesterday.

Mr Smith, speaking at the Edinburgh International Television Festival, argued that MPs and ministers should be robustly questioned when they appeared on news and current affairs programmes, and said

that many politicians agreed with him. In 1995, the BBC Director-General attacked "sneering and overbearing" interviews. This was seen as criticism of broadcasters such as Jeremy Paxman, of BBC's *Newsnight*, and John Humphrys, of *Radio 4's Today*.

Mr Smith also listed the ten television items he would take with him to a desert island. He chose an episode of Channel 4's *Hill Street Blues*, the American police drama, with the sergeant's exhortation: "Let's be careful out there." Nothing like Cabinet meetings, Mr Smith insisted. He praised ITN's coverage, for ITN's *News at Ten*, of the death of the Labour leader John Smith.

He picked BBC2's *The House*, the series on life at the Royal Opera House, "The Royal Opera House must be the only institution whose

public relations is worse than mine," he remarked.

Another favourite was a Paxman interview in which the then Home Secretary, Michael Howard, was repeatedly asked about his dealings with Derek Lewis, the then Prison Service chief.

England's fateful penalty shoot-out semi-final against Germany in the Euro 96 championship had, Mr Smith recalled, clashed with a three-line whip in the Commons. "We voted and then rushed back to the television."

The last interview given by the playwright Dennis Potter, to Melvyn Bragg on Channel 4, before he died of cancer had been "the most powerful interview that I have seen in the last five years."

Mr Smith, a keen hill-walker, had much enjoyed *The Edge*, made by BBC Scotland for BBC2, a re-

enactment of a famous climb by W. H. Murray.

Alan Bleasdale's Liverpool drama for Channel 4, *GBH*, in which Michael Palin's mild-mannered headmaster stands up to the far Left, embodied by Robert Lindsay's council leader, was a favourite. "I wasn't involved in those days with Liverpool politics and am eternally grateful," Mr Smith noted.

He was moved by the scene from *Four Weddings and a Funeral*, a film made for Channel 4, in which the character played by John Hannah reads Auden's *Stop All The Clocks* at his gay lover's funeral.

The other item was from BBC1's *EastEnders*, a character's struggle with schizophrenia. Mr Smith said: "The nation has probably learnt more about issues as a result of series like *EastEnders* than from the preaching of journalists and politicians."



Smith disagreed with the criticisms voiced by John Birt, the BBC chief



Director says TV dinner guests forgave him

'People are their own worst enemy. But we are all vain'

AFTER the furore of *The Dinner Party*, the television documentary about right-wing middle-class Britain, six of the eight guests now apparently believe they came across well in the film.

They had been scorned by television-viewers and initially protested they had been "stitched up" by Paul Watson, director of the film in which immigrants and homosexuals were lambasted and poverty described as a necessary evil.

However, Bill and Judith Vaudrey, who hosted the dinner party, feel they were unfairly portrayed — and still refuse to speak to Mr Watson.

Mr Watson, who also made the fly-on-the-wall documentaries *Sylvania Waters*, *The Family* and *The Fishing Party*, defended at the festival yesterday the work in which he asked the eight friends, who included a Lloyd's broker and a pub landlord, to talk among themselves as if the cameras were not there.

"They knew they had said what they had said," he insisted.

"Of the eight, six are now talking to me. One had said, 'Stitch the bastards', referring to immigrants and it had gone in the film. When I showed them the film they thought they themselves had come across extremely well."

George Coleman, the pub landlord, had told Mr Watson that the publicity surrounding the programme had given him the best six weeks of his life. "But the host and hostess have not spoken to me since."

He denied the guests had been exploited while drunk, adding: "Some of the most expressive forms of expression were said sober."

But Mr Coleman, landlord of the Railway pub in Framlingham, Norfolk, yesterday

contradicted Mr Watson's remarks. "I am probably the only one who was stitched up about it," he said. "But I have never told him that it was the best six weeks of my life. That is rubbish."

In his festival talk, Mr Watson admitted there was an element of vanity in people who volunteered to take part in documentaries. "You have to knock it down. People are their own worst enemy in my view. But everybody has something they want to say and we are all vain."

Mr Watson, 56, admitted that he sometimes manipulated situations and did not believe in perfectly balanced films. "I don't understand the concept of balance. I think it's artificial. I want to send people to bed arguing."

Noeline Donohue, the star of *Sylvania Waters*, which was set in Sydney, threatened to sue Mr Watson after the programme went out on BBC and at one stage claimed she was so distressed by it she had contemplated suicide.

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New claims link CJD to water supply

Allegations about a rendering plant have raised fresh fears about the risk of infection, writes Robin Young

AN INVESTIGATION into a cluster of CJD cases in Kent has led to fresh allegations that the domestic water supply could be a possible source of infection.

A former building contractor at a plant rendering the carcases of slaughtered cattle, which may have been infected with BSE, claims that liquid waste was poured down a well. The plant has strongly denied the allegation.

Dr Alan Colchester, consultant neurologist at Guy's Hospital in London, who has treated three of the new-variant CJD cases from Kent, has already voiced his concern over a possible link with infected water. He said yesterday that he was anxious to know whether effluent from the rendering process, leaked into the water supply, could be a route of infection.

The former contractor, Gary Skillet, says workers at Canterbury Mills, a rendering factory near Godmersham, used a well to get rid of liquid waste from carcasses disposed of under the Government's

culling programme. Speaking to Meridian Television's *Meridian Focus*, to be shown tonight, Mr Skillet said that effluent was regularly pumped into the 50ft well, providing a link to the aquifer which supplies domestic water to a large area of East Kent, where there have been three deaths from the new variant of CJD. All lived within a 20-mile radius of the rendering plant.

Mr Skillet's claim comes days after the 22nd victim of new-variant CJD was identified. The case of Clare Tomkins, 24, from Tonbridge, in a different water area, 25 miles to the west of Godmersham, has raised fears about sources of infection because she has been a vegetarian since 1985, before the first case of BSE.

Mr Skillet, of Shadox, Kent, now a business studies student, said: "Basically, they put down the well whatever they could get down it. They used an electrically operated pump and the well was used with everybody's knowledge to pump away materials they

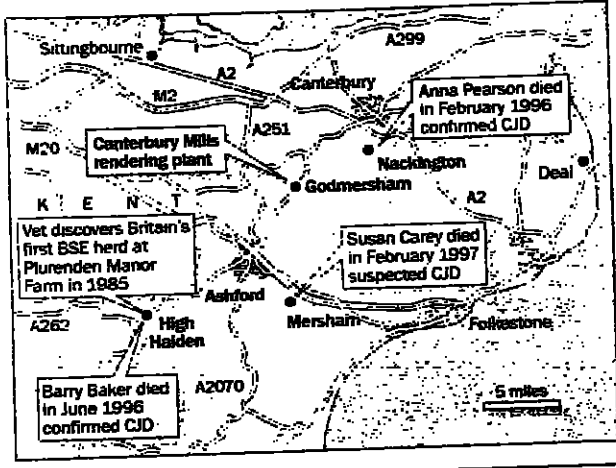
could not get rid of any other way."

The plant is understood to be the only one in Britain to spread its effluent across fields above an aquifer from which drinking water is taken. This fact, which became known in July 1996, so shocked Dr Colchester that he arranged a meeting with the Department of the Environment. "I later discovered that, within hours of the meeting, a key part of the evidence had — on the instruction of the Environment Agency — been removed by blocking off a pipe," he said. "The Environment Agency undermined my confidence in how thoroughly they were carrying out the investigation."

"In my opinion it is very likely that the new-variant CJD is BSE in man. That is, it is transmitted from cattle to man. The route of infection has not been proven, but I think it is most likely that it is by the oral route, which is the greatest risk. If it was through liquid, then it would probably be suspended particles within water."

The Environment Agency strongly denied any impropriety: "At no time has the agency concealed evidence or misled anyone over our actions at Canterbury Mills. Analytical results of samples taken from the well were made available to the public and remain so. We commissioned an independent risk assessment into Canterbury Mills and the well contents posed a negligible risk to public water supplies or human health."

David Richardson, director of Canterbury Mills, said: "We have never put anything down the well other than



Rescuers taking sick swans from the Thames in Oxfordshire after permission was granted by Her Majesty's Royal Swan Marker

THAMES WILDLIFE IS SUFFERING FROM THE HEAT. KATHRYN KNIGHT AND NICK NUTTALL REPORT

Queen's swans poisoned by outbreak of algae

DOZENS of the Queen's swans have been killed and many more left chronically ill by blue algae floating in the Thames. In the past fortnight, more than 40 swans and hundreds of smaller birds, including ducks, coots and moorhens, have been poisoned after the August heat caused an explosion of the bacteria along a stretch at Abingdon, Oxfordshire.

A rescue operation has been launched by the RSPCA and the Swan Wildlife Sanctuary in an attempt to save the other stricken birds. David Barber, Her Majesty's Royal Swan Marker, gave permission for the birds to be moved from the water to receive treatment.

At the swan sanctuary in Egham, Surrey, the own-

er, Dot Beeson, is tending 55 of the sick birds, including some cygnets, and hopes to nurse them back to full health.

"Some were extremely sick, and many were on the point of being unconscious," she said. "Their central nervous system has been poisoned. So we have put them on drips and filled them with antibiotics and vitamins."

The reason the area in Abingdon is such a problem is that developers built a marina round a former gravel pit but failed to make an outlet for the water in the marina to flow back into the Thames, leaving the water to become stagnant.

"It needs to be reoxygenated and then the marina should be rede-

signed. We can't rehouse the swans anywhere else because they will only fly back to their homeland."

Last night Mr Barber said he was discussing with the Environment Agency how best to resolve the problem. "We will be taking a firm line with the agency," he said. "The swans cannot go back into the water until it is safe. This has put a lot of unnecessary stress on them."

The sanctuary, which costs £50,000 a year to run, even though staffed by volunteers, was set up in Ms Beeson's back garden 20 years ago after she rescued a sick swan and is internationally renowned. Hundreds of birds are treated every year with donations and sponsorship from local businesses.

Drought drives away salmon

SALMON have returned to the Thames in their lowest numbers for years, with experts linking the problem to low flows and high temperatures caused by three years of drought.

A record 338 fish returned in 1993, but since then numbers have been falling. John Hyslop, of the Thames Salmon Trust, said yesterday: "Last year we had 100 but so far this year there have been just 21. At this stage last year we had had 90 to 100."

Mr Hyslop said the salmon was a fussy fish that needed a range of conditions to thrive. These were being undermined by the low flows and the sudden heavy bursts of rain which have been a feature of this summer.

London's Victorian sewer system has not been able to cope with these sudden high

volumes of water and the system has overflowed, causing large amounts of sewage to pour into the Thames, lowering oxygen levels.

Heavy rains also washed fertilisers and pesticides from surrounding land into the river.

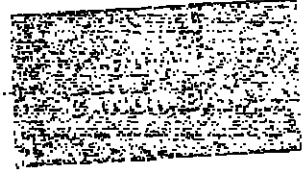
"The salmon come into the estuary, sniff the river and decide they do not fancy it. So they go off somewhere else," Mr Hyslop said. "The trust believes that Thames Water, which removes water from the river to supply households and commerce in the capital, is partly to blame."

The trust also believes that global warming could be playing a part. "In fairness to Thames Water, there does appear to be a change in weather patterns, which is pretty frightening," Mr Hyslop said.

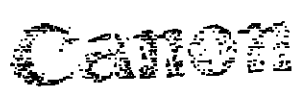
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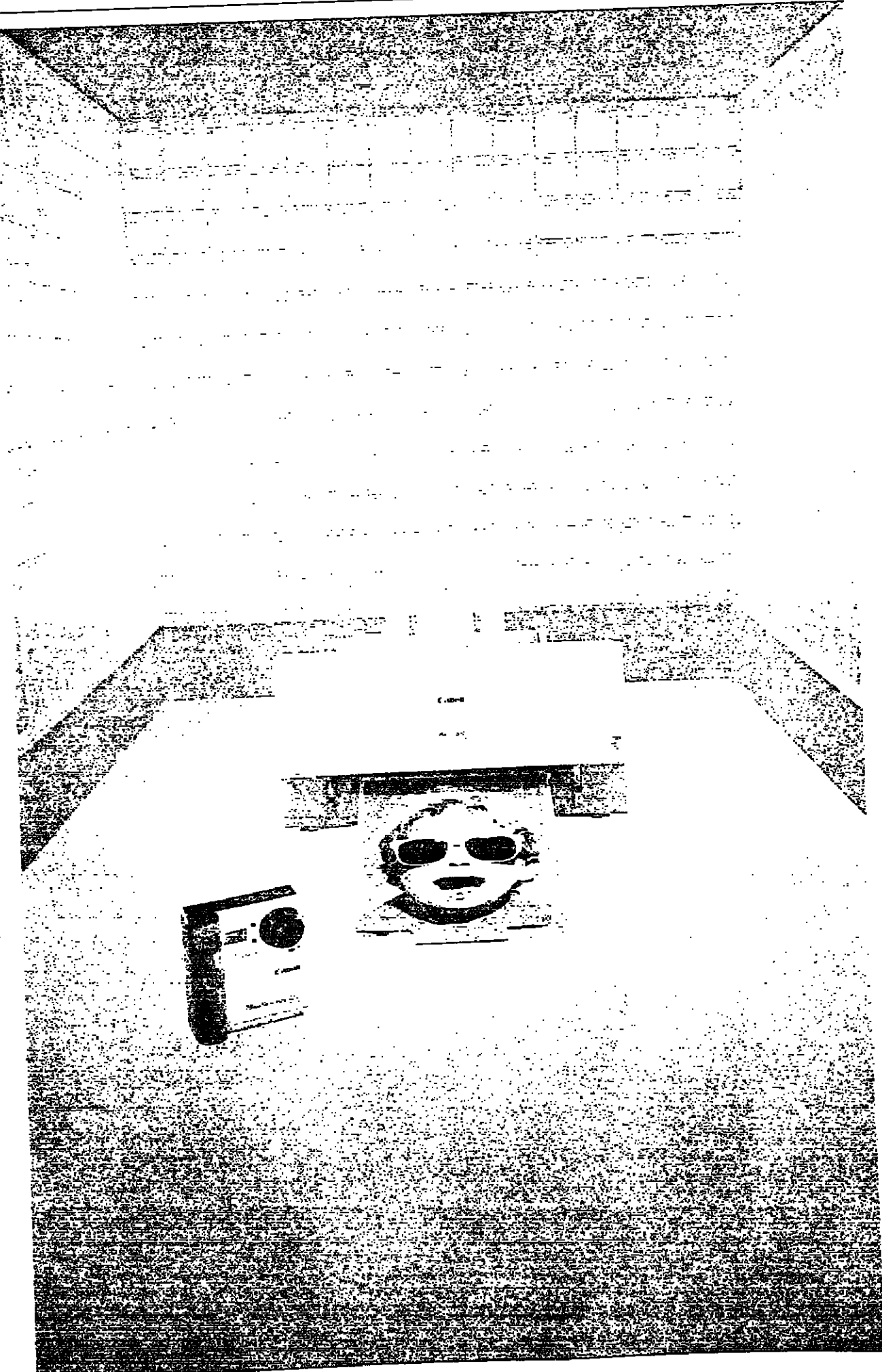
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Review orders in case of M2 robber

Inquiry will study solutions to drug problem

By RICHARD FORD
HOME CORRESPONDENT

A POLICING think-tank has set up a study of the drug problem and possible solutions, including decriminalisation of some illegal substances, it was announced yesterday.

The two-year investigation, set up by the Police Foundation, a charity, will consider whether policies pursued by successive governments have worked. Viscountess Runciman of Dorford, who is to chair the inquiry, said that it would not constitute a lobbying exercise for any particular proposal or a "covert attempt to smooth the path to legalisation". It is expected to focus on whether the 1971 Misuse of Drugs Act needs to be changed in the light of the scale of the problem.

Its 12 members include the Chief Constable of the City of London, John Hamilton; Dennis O'Connor, an assistant commissioner in the Metropolitan Police; Alan Maynard, professor of economics at York University; and Simon Jenkins, former Editor of *The Times*. The Prince's Trust is to provide accommodation for meetings and secretarial assistance but no financial support. Viscountess Runciman admitted that the independent inquiry had been set up partly because of the failure of politicians to address the reality of drug use in Britain. "It has certainly been devised to fulfil what is a very clear need in terms of public debate and, in that sense, it is perhaps stepping into a vacuum."

Apparently criticising the way that politicians react against any suggestion of changes in drug laws, she said that she hoped the inquiry would allow the public to "move beyond the shrill and not very well-informed debate of recent weeks".

She admitted that one task of the inquiry team would be to examine the implications of decriminalisation and of legalisation. Asked if the inquiry would consider decriminalisation, she said: "Yes, it includes that question... never properly defined as far as I can see; nor indeed is legalisation as yet properly defined."

Barrie Irving, director of the Police Foundation, said: "Youth culture and the drugs issue have moved on since 1971. We realise that this is a sensitive field but independent review is long overdue. Legislation is designed for a particular time and set of problems. Periodic review is essential."



Viscountess Runciman wants public debate



A Pennines moorland crop delighting its namesake, five-year-old Heather Wilson of Garrigill, Cumbria, yesterday. The vibrant flowering has its roots in May's warmth

Luxuriant heather moorlands go through a purple patch

MOORLANDS are putting on one of their most glorious shows in years. The unusual combination of a warm, dry May and a June deluge has brought out the heather a little late but as vibrant as it has been in living memory.

While Scotland, the plant's traditional home, is waiting to witness this year's bloom at its best, Northumberland hills are an undulating sea of purple. During the last few days of August, thousands more acres of remote moorland will burst into life.

John Phillips, director of the Heather Trust, said: "We had a lovely warm, dry May and that is exactly what

causes heather to flower. If it experiences heat and an element of dryness, it doesn't stay in the vegetative state, it goes into the reproductive state."

The Pennines are slightly ahead of other areas. Tony Walker, North Pennines Tourism Partnership manager, said: "This must

be one of the most spectacular years I have seen. It is our own version of New England in the fall. The Lake District daffodils in springtime, or Scotland's bluebells."

The partnership has opened an information line on 01434 382069 to tell people the best

routes to reach the most dazzling displays. But heather moors are generally dying out. At one time the plant was used in thatching but now farmers prefer to send sheep onto the moors, where they are munching their way through hundreds of acres of heather a year.

Ministers were urged yesterday to curb lorry traffic through villages after a survey suggested that rural lanes were used as "rat runs" by heavy goods vehicles.

The Council for the Protection of Rural England said government forecasts indicated increases in lorry traffic would outstrip that of other traffic within 30 years, and could rise threefold. It called for national targets for road freight to be moved to railways and waterways. Freight groups denied that lorries used rural roads as short cuts.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Lorries 'use rural lanes as rat runs'

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Going for gold

Test-drilling for gold is being carried out near Credon, Devon, by the Dublin-based exploration company Minmet. The exact location is not being disclosed. Jeremy Metcalfe, the chairman, said: "I do not want hundreds of people charging on to this farmer's land." Results will be known in October.

Boy, 6, drowns

A six-year-old boy from Oldham drowned in a hotel swimming pool while on holiday in Newquay. Daniel Cummings had been playing in the crowded pool when his mother realised he was missing. His death is thought to have been an accident. It was the second such tragedy in a week.

Vodka hijacked

Thieves drove off with thousands of pounds of vodka when they stole an articulated lorry from a store yard in Dumfries. Police said that the missing vehicle was spotted over the weekend in Livingston, West Lothian, but on Sunday its tractor unit was discovered without its trailer and load of alcohol.

Seatbelt drive

A campaign against people who refuse to wear seatbelts was launched by police across Scotland yesterday. The "Belt-up Scotland" campaign is an attempt to reduce the number of deaths from crash injuries in Scotland which amounted to 357 last year. Officers will also visit schools to reinforce the message.

Beatles festival

Thousands of Beatles fans and dozens of musicians have gathered in Liverpool for a six-day festival in the band's honour. The Cavern Quarter Entertainments, part of the annual Beatles Festival, will feature performances by local and international bands in 30 venues near the nightclub where the group was launched.

Defence ministry 'an IT dinosaur'

Brigadier accuses MoD of wasting huge sums, reports Michael Evans

THE Ministry of Defence's most modern office, the futuristic, £254 million Procurement Executive in Bristol, has an advanced computer system that cannot "talk" electronically with the ministry's computerised network in Whitehall.

The Procurement Executive, relocated in April last year from nine separate buildings in London, refused to install the MoD's automated computer system, Chots. Instead, it bought another system, called Dawn.

Brigadier Bill Kincaid, who until two years ago was in charge of the Army's operational requirements section at the MoD's Whitehall headquarters, accuses the ministry of wasting huge sums of money. He says the different

information technology systems have not only proved unpopular but, in some cases, cannot be linked up to offices around the country.

Brigadier Kincaid, who since his retirement from the Army has set up a consultancy advising the MoD, says in a devastatingly critical book due to be published next month that the then Chief of Defence Procurement, Malcolm McIntosh, decided against installing the Chots system at his new headquarters at Abbey Wood and insisted on having Dawn. "Dawn only caters for the Procurement Executive internally, not for the vital external links to MoD in Whitehall and elsewhere," says Brigadier Kincaid.

He claims Chots is "re-

markably unpopular" and not worth upgrading. Part of the problem, he says, is that nobody at the MoD appeared to have sufficient knowledge about the best systems to buy. So it threw money and outside specialists "at a problem they do not comprehend".

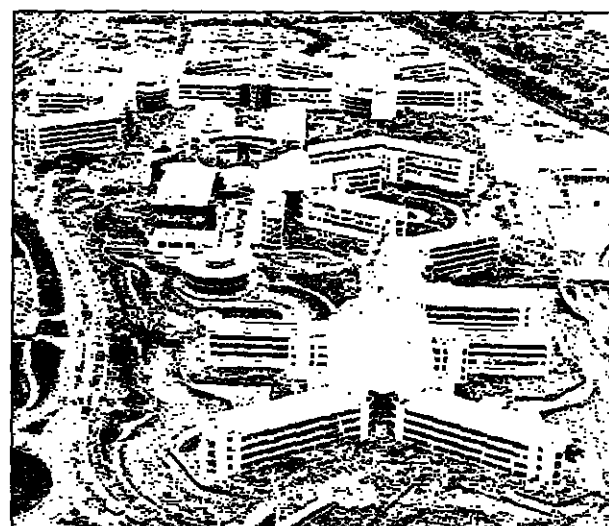
"The specialists spend the money, talk gibberish and end up with too many unsatisfactory projects." The result was that the MoD's operational requirements staff had imposed on them a "user-unfriendly office IT system (Chots) which cannot interface with the IT systems of the majority of other MoD departments with which it does business".

Brigadier Kincaid admitted yesterday that when he was

director of the Army's operational requirements he made himself unpopular by trying to make changes, but he hoped that his book would stimulate debate at a time when the MoD was engaged in a strategic defence review.

The ministry confirmed yesterday that the Dawn system installed at the Procurement Executive was not yet linked electronically to the Chots computer in Whitehall. However, a spokeswoman said: "A link is planned."

The official said: "Chots provides office automation and other applications for all material up to 'secret' level to around 10,000 MoD head office and command staff at more than 30 main sites both in the United Kingdom and



The Procurement Executive at Abbey Wood, Bristol

overseas." She said it was a fully secure system networked with other computers. "It provides electronic mail and links to many other defence systems and networks."

She said Chots was now linked to eight other systems, but not yet to Dawn at the Procurement Executive. In order for the Abbey Wood building to have some electronic link to the Whitehall headquarters, there was "a small number" of Dawn terminals at the MoD. She said

there were no Chots terminals at Abbey Wood.

Brigadier Kincaid says in his book, *A Dinosaur in Whitehall*: "No thought appears to have been given to electronic interfaces within MoD as a whole, with the result that within the equipment procurement world, the four main groups - operational requirements, Procurement Executive, Defence Research Agency and the Field Army - have no electronic links with each other at all."

General tells Gulf War veterans to sue

By MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

A RETIRED general is advising Gulf War veterans suffering from illnesses to follow his example and sue the Government for negligence. General Sir Walter Walker won substantial damages against the Ministry of Defence after a long battle over an operation that went wrong.

The former Nato commander-in-chief Allied Forces Northern Europe said he had been chronically disabled and "in excruciating pain" for the past 12 years after two "botched" hip

operations, performed by an RAF surgeon and an Army surgeon. It took him four years, he said, to fight the Treasury solicitor, but eventually he won his case in 1990 in an out-of-court settlement "with substantial damages and full legal costs".

Sir Walter, 84, says Gulf War veterans should seek the help of the same medical negligence solicitors who helped him to win his case. He gives the advice in a foreword to a book written by Andrew Horner, one of the leading campaigners for those who claim to be suffering from Gulf War syndrome. They blame their illnesses

partly on the vaccines and anti-nerve-gas tablets given to them as protection against potential Iraqi chemical and biological warfare attacks.

Mr Horner's book, *The Ministry Syndrome*, to be published soon, describes how his health rapidly deteriorated after returning from the Gulf War, where he served as a Parachute Regiment reservist. Mr Horner, 40, claims that documents are now coming to light that will reveal that servicemen sent to the Gulf were used as "medical guinea-pigs without our consent".

Sir Walter says in the foreword: "My

advice to this poor unfortunate man [Andrew Horner] is to put himself in the hands of the same medical negligence solicitors who fought my case with such success. The very least that the powers-that-be should do immediately is to grant this man legal aid, followed by full compensation."

Mr Horner, who suffered progressively from chest pains, deafness, headaches, numb and aching arms and legs, vision problems, fatigue and temper, was eventually awarded a war pension after it was accepted that his illnesses were related to his service in the Gulf.

Ministers face calls to regulate use of jet skis

By ADRIAN LEE

PRESSURE was growing on the Government yesterday to regulate the use of jet skis after a woman was killed in a head-on collision with another machine off the North Wales coast.

The fatality, the fourth in Britain in the past two years and the second this summer, happened off Portmadoc, Gwynedd. The rider of the jet ski, Julie Healey, a 25-year-old nurse, from Rochdale, was dead on arrival at hospital.

Christina Wrigley, 7, from Oldham, a passenger on the Kawasaki Jet Ski driven by Ms Healey, suffered a fractured jaw. The rider of the other machine, a 51-year-old man, was slightly hurt.

The most powerful jet ski models are capable of speeds of more than 60mph. Unlike many other countries, Britain has no laws governing their use.

Malcolm Ellis, head of leisure safety at The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents, said: "It is too easy



Two people have died in jet ski crashes recently

for novice riders to get afloat." RoSPA wants jet skiers to train for certificates of competence.

The Government has so far refused to introduce legislation, relying on bylaws to restrict the use of water bikes. A Department of Transport spokesman said yesterday: "We feel the powers of local authorities are sufficient."

But critics say bylaws are difficult to enforce and prosecutions are virtually unknown. Yesterday Dafydd Wigley, the Plaid Cymru president, whose Caernarfon con-

sistency includes Portmadoc, accused the Government of being "culpably complacent". He said: "There should be an immediate inquiry into this tragedy. If the Government remains unwilling to act I shall press for a select committee investigation into the issue."

Mervyn Phillips, director of the Docklands Watersports Club in East London, said yesterday: "What is taking place now is carnage. It would not be allowed on the roads."

In Britain there is nothing to prevent children driving jet skis and they can be ridden without insurance in coastal waters. In the United States and Australia there are strict controls on jet skis. Users can be fined up to £1,000 for riding too close to beaches and each machine has a licence plate.

In Florida, where the water bikes are responsible for 38 per cent of marine accidents, under-16s are required to take tests. In France, users of jet skis must hold sea-driving licences but many resorts have banned them.

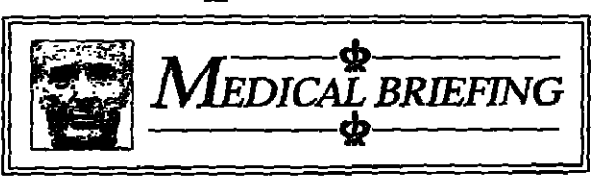
TV doctor endures pains of real-life tropical fever

JANE SEYMOUR, the actress who starred in the television series *Dr Quinn, Medicine Woman*, has recently had a real-life role in medicine, but as a patient rather than as a doctor.

Ms Seymour caught dengue fever while on location in the Far East in an area infected with Aedes mosquito, which transmits the causative organism.

One third of the world's population lives in areas where dengue fever is endemic. In the 18th century, dengue fever spread along trade routes from Africa, India and the Far East. It now infects travellers and holiday-makers as well as millions of residents in places as far apart as Tahiti, Hawaii, Thailand, the Philippines and West Africa.

In 1969 dengue fever spread to the Caribbean and it is now a problem in many of the islands. Outbreaks have also occurred in cities such as Brisbane and Athens. The control of the aedes mosquito has prevented it



Dr Thomas Stuttford

from becoming established. About a week to ten days after being bitten by the virus-carrying mosquito, Jane Seymour would have been suddenly overcome with shivering attacks and a high fever, and her very severe headache would have been made much worse by her, by now, bloodshot eyes.

Severe joint and muscle pains would have made certain that she could no longer remain up and about. After three or four days the symptoms disappear and there is a respite of 48 hours, but then they return, less severely but accompanied by an obvious skin rash and bright red palms and soles. Once infected

there is no treatment other than nursing care.

The only measure to be taken against dengue is to prevent the mosquito from stinging. Fortunately, recovery from the uncomplicated form of the disease is the rule. A long convalescence is needed and Ms Seymour will not feel on top form for many weeks or even months.

A more severe variant of dengue fever, dengue haemorrhagic fever, is found in the Far East. In this variant of the disease the symptoms are accompanied by bleeding into the skin and other organs. In children, and occasionally adults, dengue haemorrhagic fever can prove fatal.

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Kohl attempts to extinguish euro brushfires set by Waigel

FROM ROGER BOYES
IN BONN

HELMUT KOHL, the German Chancellor, angrily brushed aside yesterday rumours surrounding the future of his Finance Minister, Theo Waigel, and called on his government coalition to concentrate on modernising the country, introducing the euro, and winning the elections.

The comments came as Germany's euro debate started to heat up for what promises to be a final autumn showdown on the introduction of the new currency.

Yesterday 58 professors of economics, including Reinhard Selten, the Nobel prize-winner, and two members of the Bundesbank board, came out strongly in favour of the euro and equally firmly contradicted the advice of the so-called five wise men, top economists who give independent counsel to the Government, who have urged a carefully managed postponement rather than a botched up, yet punctual, start.

Yesterday was also Herr Kohl's first day back from holiday and he immediately

had to extinguish the brushfires ignited by his Finance Minister. The summer debate about a Cabinet reshuffle, Herr Kohl said, was "entirely unnecessary and very damaging for the coalition and for the Christian Democratic Union".

Herr Waigel, who as chairman of the Bavarian Christian Social Union (CSU) is seen as the second most powerful man in the Cabinet after the Chancellor, was "doing a first-class job, despite all the discussion". Whether those comments, made in an interview for today's mass-circulation *Bild*, will be enough to quash the

speculation about the unsteadiness of the Kohl Government remains to be seen.

Herr Waigel started the trouble in an interview with a regional television programme before the summer break in which he declared himself tired of his job and ready for a change after the election in September next year.

The interview was shown a fortnight later, in the dog days of summer. That fed speculation. Was Herr Waigel pushing, with his party's support, to be Foreign Minister? If so, when? Such a move would en-

tail confrontation with the Free Democrats, who supply the Foreign Minister, Klaus Kinkel, and push the Government close to collapse.

Was the CSU flexing its muscles perhaps before a Cabinet reshuffle in December, when the Posts Ministry, a CSU department, is abolished? The CSU, fighting to keep its absolute majority in Bavaria, is none too keen to be saddled with an unpopular, if influential, Finance Ministry in Bonn. Herr Waigel is an election liability. Or was the CSU signalling to the Chancellor that it wanted to make a

clear demarcation between itself and the Christian Democrats, to the point even of sabotaging the Government?

A more sinister, line of conjecture is that the Chancellor is starkly at odds with his Finance Minister on the euro. The talk is of secret plans for euro postponement being hatched in Bonn corridors. Herr Kohl spoke last week to President Chirac of France to confirm that there was no such German plan. A similar commitment to a punctual euro will come on Thursday during a meeting in Bonn with Lionel

Jospin, the French Prime Minister. Forecasters say that Germany will come very close to the 3 per cent of gross domestic product public deficit target for the euro.

West LB Bank predicted yesterday that, despite additional unplanned tax revenue shortfalls, Germany should make 3.25 per cent this year which, bank analysts believe, would still allow Bonn to squeeze into the euro club. It is reckoning with 11 countries participating in the euro from the start. Herr Waigel, by contrast, sticks to the line that the 3 per cent entry qualifica-

tion is just that, a 3.0 per cent hurdle. Strategems for controlled delay thus have to be devised, in case Germany fails to meet the target.

An offer of resignation from Herr Waigel might allow the Chancellor to wriggle out of his difficult political situation. He needs Herr Waigel as Finance Minister to send a signal to the rest of Europe to keep fiscal discipline as tight as possible. But once the final judgments on who is in and who is out of EMU are taken next spring, Herr Waigel becomes less essential to the future of the Government.

Last East German Communist boss jailed for six years

EGON KRENZ, East Germany's last Communist leader, was jailed for six and a half years yesterday for his part in the killing of at least four of his former citizens who were shot dead on the death strip that divided East from West.

Two other members of the Politburo, Günter Schabowski, 67, a propaganda expert, and Günther Kleiber, 65, an economist, were imprisoned for three years. All three were found guilty of manslaughter by the very fact of belonging to the East German Communist leadership which tolerated the killing of defectors.

"I won't give up!" Krenz, 60, yelled to his supporters who were packed into the public gallery of the Berlin courtroom.

Judge Josef Hoch ruled that there was a chance that Krenz, an unrepentant supporter of the East German system, could flee abroad; he decided therefore that the politician should stay in jail while his appeal was being prepared. The other two men, he ruled, could stay at home until the sentence was binding.

The verdict represented Germany's final reckoning with the East German Communist regime. Alto-



Krenz's sentencing marks Germany's final reckoning with the regime beyond the Wall, writes Roger Boyes

gether there have been 150 trials in connection with the deaths of 265 would-be border escapees. The prosecutors built up a complex legal structure, starting with trials against several dozen border guards who carried out the shoot-to-kill orders. Steadily the prosecutors closed in on border guard commanders, on generals and the National Security Council. Heinz Kessler, the former Defence Minister, was sent to jail for seven and a half years.

Sentencing members of the Politburo, the top rung of the Communist ladder, was always going to be the most legally difficult task of the whole process.

Firstly, the border defences, including anti-personnel mines and automatically triggered spray guns, were relaxed somewhat in 1983, before Krenz moved into a central political position. Second, no written shoot-to-kill order could be

found, nor did the Politburo records reveal any discussion of the subject.

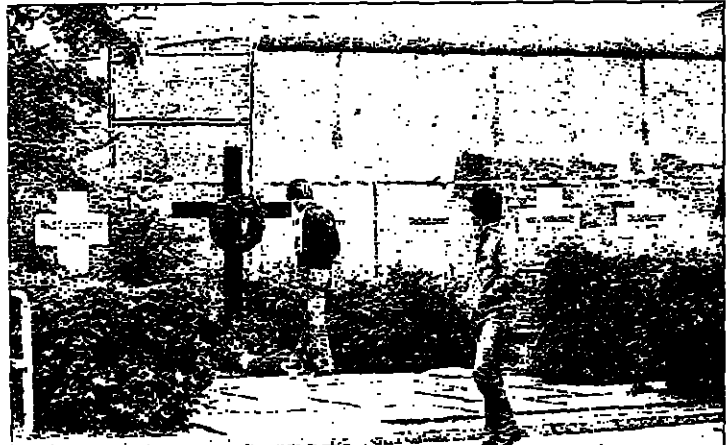
Krenz said that shooting escapees was ordered by Moscow, not by the East Berlin regime. That made the 20-month trial, he said, little more than "victors' justice", political retribution. But the judge, while not accepting the prosecutor's request for an 11-year prison sentence, concluded that Krenz and other Politburo members had to carry the final blame.

"The Politburo was responsible for border security," the judge said. "The guards were given an ideological order to shoot and they were taught that the refugees were enemies of peace and traitors to East Germany who should be destroyed." That, he said, was the essence of the trial. "They were taught that the inviolability of the border had priority over human life."

Ten years ago Krenz was a politician in the Communist fast lane. It was not unusual — indeed it was expected — for thousands of blue-shirted members of the Free German Youth to give standing applause to this Teutonic version of Mikhail Gorbachev.

Yesterday, led away to his cell, the crumpled politician drew a few scattered shouts of sympathy from well-wishers in the public gallery, tight-faced true believers. *Alles Gute, Egon* — all the best — one shouted, to the visible disapproval of court officials.

For a few of the old guard in east Germany, Krenz has become a "martyr", but in fact the former leader of the eastern state was just a creature of the old order.



Memorials pay tribute to those shot dead at the Berlin Wall

Leading article, page 17



Egon Krenz, who defended the Communist German state and saw his trial as political — the West getting revenge on the East — claimed that killings at the Wall were on Moscow's orders

Soros gift of \$15m to oppose tough US drug laws

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX
IN WASHINGTON

GEORGE SOROS, the billionaire financier, is giving \$15 million (£9 million) to oppose America's "war on drugs" in a highly controversial move that has brought him into head-on conflict with conservative politicians across the nation.

Mr Soros, who has smoked marijuana, says he does not back legalisation of the drug. But in an interview in this week's *Time* magazine, he adds: "I do want to weaken the drug laws. They are unnecessarily severe."

Mr Soros shot to fame on Black Wednesday, September 16, 1992, the day sterling was forced from the European exchange-rate mechanism. He made \$1 billion, a fifth of his estimated fortune, betting against the currency that week, earning himself the tag "The Man who Broke the Bank of England".

In the past two years he has committed more than \$15 million to groups seeking to reform drug laws. He gave \$1 million last year to back new Californian and Arizona laws to legalise the medical use of marijuana and has just pledged \$1 million to a San Francisco needle exchange programme and \$5 million a year for five years to Baltimore, a city where 85 per cent of crime is drug-related.

A Hungarian-born Jewish survivor of the Holocaust, he was prompted by the overthrow of communism in Central and Eastern Europe to spend \$1.1 billion in those countries supporting democracy, human rights and press freedom. Richard Holbrooke, US special envoy to Bosnia, has called him one of the most interesting and important philanthropists in the world.

The collapse of the Soviet Union, he tells *Time*, "was a historical opportunity. When things calmed down, I had the opportunity to start thinking about what could be done" in the United States.

In the first three months of this year, he has sprayed \$13.4 million over programmes to reduce prison populations, protect immigrants' rights to welfare aid and reform drug laws.

But Mr Soros's decision to turn the blowtorch of his billions on the mainstream politics of his adopted country is provoking attacks of a new ferocity. Conservative politicians, who pressed that he was a libertarian and communist, feel threatened.

In attacking the "war on drugs", a policy cherished by both Republicans and Democrats, Mr Soros argues that the costs of criminalising drug users far outweigh the benefits.

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Danish neo-Nazis on trial

FROM CHRISTOPHER FOLLETT IN COPENHAGEN

THREE Danish neo-Nazi accused of posting letters to targets in Britain went on trial in Copenhagen yesterday amid heavy security because of fears of reprisals by the far-right extremists and their Nazi-inspired group Combat 18.

One defendant asked for a hearing to be held in closed doors, saying that he had left the mainstream neo-Nazi movement and that others who had done so had been brutally attacked in former comrades. The request was denied, but police officers have heightened security at the Copenhagen court room.

The three are accused of manufacturing the letters

and posting them in January from a postbox in the nearby Swedish port of Malmö. Danish police said the addresses as Sharron Davies, the television presenter, neo-Nazi group Combat 18, and the Anti-Fascist Action Organisation.

Mr Davies is married to Derek Redmond, the black athlete. Police officers suspect that Combat 18, named after the first and eighth letters of the alphabet, A and H for Adolf Hitler, was targeted during international strife among ultra-right groups.

Danish detectives tipped off by the German police, followed one of the defendants to

Malmö and retrieved the three devices, which were concealed in video cassettes, from the postbox.

He was arrested at a house north of Copenhagen with his two co-defendants and four others who were subsequently released. During the raid he shot an officer in the thigh. He said later that he had fired in self-defence, believing that he was being attacked by leftist opponents.

Examination has shown that the explosive in the bombs was inactive, but the detonators alone could have blown off a recipient's hand.

Verdicts are expected on Thursday week.

Five die in Aegean after fire on yacht

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS IN LESBOS

FIVE bodies, two of children, were found in the Aegean Sea yesterday around an overturned inflatable dinghy used to escape from their burning yacht. Two men among the party of eight aboard the *Gold Fin* on Friday are still missing.

Vagias Zisi, the only known survivor, said that fire broke out in the engine room and quickly spread as the three families sailed off Lesbos. The meteorological service reported gale-force winds in the area that day.

Ms Zisi, 32, said that the children and four of the adults boarded the dinghy, while she

and one man held onto ropes and swam alongside the full boat, which was equipped only with oars.

"We were swimming for 14 hours, when we saw land roughly 500 yards away," she said. She swam to a rocky islet, but the others were unable to follow and were apparently swept away from shore by the current.

A passing fisherman found her on Saturday morning and she was taken to a Lesbos hospital. The navy and air force continued the search for Dimitri Thendordis and Evangelos Mavridis, both 35.

Plavsic wins over military in anti-Karadzic crusade

FROM IAN WALES
IN BELGRADE

PRESIDENT PRAVSIĆ yesterday appeared on the air to win the support of the Republic's army in her fight against Radovan Karadzic.

Coming on top of her success in breaking the Bosnian Serb state media in two, Mrs Plavsic now enjoys a groundswell of public and institutional support in western Republika Srpska, where Dr Karadzic's previously loyal cohorts are in disarray.

On Sunday night the state television studio in Mrs Plavsic's stronghold of Banja Luka made its first independent broadcast, transmitting its signal in most of western Republika Srpska through the Kotara television mast. There had been dire warnings from Dr Karadzic's state television apparatus in Pale that the Kotara mast would

be defended, and British Stabilisation Force troops had prepared plans to help to secure the transmitter.

Dr Karadzic's grip on the media network, like the army, seems to have been a chimera. *Srb* need not have bothered. Dr Karadzic's loyal police on Kotara simply melted away, and a switch was flicked in the Banja Luka studio.

The Pale hub of the state television now only influences eastern Republika Srpska, where 30 per cent of the Bosnian Serbs live.

While state television was berating Mrs Plavsic last week, the army, under the command of General Peru Covic, had issued a statement supporting Dr Karadzic. A week later that too seems to have been bluster: yesterday Lieutenant-Colonel Mirkolj Mitrovic described the statement as "an act of treason". The army's loyalty, he said, was to the head of state — Mrs



President Plavsic acknowledges supporters from a Banja Luka balcony after TV staff vowed loyalty

Plavsic. At the root of Dr Karadzic's problems in western Republika Srpska is the collapse of his Serbian Democratic Party. Several ministers have resigned from the SDS, and at municipal level SDS boards are rapidly splitting into factions. Worryingly for

Dr Karadzic, in Bijeljina, the largest town in the east, the mayor has resigned and many other SDS members are thought likely to jump ship to Mrs Plavsic's new party, the Serb Party of Republika Srpska.

More indignity came yesterday as about 30 SDS

staff went to a rally outside Banja Luka's press agency building, where Mrs Plavsic was giving a press conference. They were pelted with eggs by Plavsic loyalists.

With Dr Karadzic's apparatus collapsing all about her, Mrs Plavsic was in combative form during her press conference, where she vowed that Republika Srpska would not split in two.

By calling on police not to co-operate with UN international police, Mrs Plavsic said Dragan Kijac, the sacked Interior Minister, was "pushing Republika Srpska into an abyss". She said that the Bosnian Serb representative on the Bosnian state presidency — Dr Karadzic's puppet, Momcilo Krajisnik — was "playing with fire" in trying to win over the army.

The Western powers, too, are playing with fire. Emboldened, Mrs Plavsic is begin-

ning to show some alarming dictatorial and ultra-nationalist traits. At her last rally she described how she had sent the local state newspaper editor "back into the forest". Against a medley of patriotic songs, she said: "Serbs are united east and west. This is all Serb land."

The Bosnian Serb crisis still has a full head of steam. President Milosevic of Serbia has remained on the Bosnian sidelines so far, but Belgrade sources said yesterday that he was planning a trip to Banja Luka, possibly on Thursday.

For Mr Milosevic, the strong anti-communist, anti-corruption crusade of Mrs Plavsic is a potential disaster, bringing the possibility of Dr Karadzic's arrest nearer. The wildest of Balkan foxes needs to conjure a means of keeping Mrs Plavsic in check and Dr Karadzic, who knows far too much for Mr Milosevic's comfort, out of NATO's way.

North Korea suffers blow as envoy defects

BY ROBERT WHYMAN

A SENIOR North Korean diplomat has fled and sought asylum in the West, delivering a new blow to the waning fortunes of the isolated Pyongyang regime, the South Korean Foreign Ministry said yesterday.

Jang Seung Gil, North Korea's Ambassador to Egypt, went to a Western mission in Cairo with his wife last Friday to seek sanctuary and has since left Egypt, ministry officials said. However, they would not disclose the couple's whereabouts and declined to comment on Seoul press reports that Mr Jang, 49, has been granted asylum by the United States.

Mr Jang, a former Deputy Foreign Minister, would be the first ambassador to flee the Stalinist state, beset by economic woes and a food crisis that have deepened schisms in the power structure. He was due to return home next month after a three-year term in Cairo.

In what may be a dual defection, Mr Jang's diplomat brother, Jang Sung Ho, 51,



Jang Seung Gil: may have gone to US

stationed in Paris, was also reported to be missing from the North Korean mission in France and to have sought asylum. "The two cases seem to be related," said a Foreign Ministry spokesman in Seoul.

Though there have been previous defections by North Korean diplomats — one based in Congo sought asylum in Seoul in 1991, another stationed in Zambia fled to

South Korea last year — Mr Jang's apparent disloyalty is likely to cause a far greater stir in Pyongyang.

His wife, a former actress, is said to be close to Kim Jong Il, the North Korean dictator, and to have once played the lead in *The Flower Girl*, an operetta produced by the state-run Mr Kim.

South Korea's Yonhap News Agency speculated that Mr Jang feared trouble if he returned to Pyongyang. His son disappeared from Cairo last August after criticising North Korea's political system and is reported to be in Canada. Mr Jang faced a bleak future in his paranoid homeland.

Diplomats and analysts in Tokyo said the ambassador's defection underscored the discontent within North Korea's ruling elite, sharply exposed by the defection in February of Hwang Jang Yop, a member of the Workers' Party Central Committee.

Mr Hwang, now living in South Korea, has reportedly given intelligence officials a list of high-ranking Pyongyang dissidents vulnerable to attack from hardliners, many of whom are actively seeking a chance to flee.

In Cairo, the North Korean Embassy denied that the ambassador had defected, but gave varying explanations. One official said the couple "are in North Korea and will have to return within a week to oversee the ending of his term," while another insisted that the ambassador was in Cairo.

Last night the Egyptian Government confirmed it was looking for the ambassador. Saeed Ragab, Assistant Foreign Minister, said Mr Jang and his wife had been missing since Friday. "We searched hospitals in case there was an accident and made investigations which yielded nothing," Mr Ragab said.

Cairo airport officials said they had no record of Mr Jang's leaving. "If he left, he did it with a fake passport," a security officer said.



Sarah Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister's wife, tries on a kimono in Tokyo yesterday, as her husband tried to calm Japanese fears about investments in Israel

Netanyahu reassures critics

Tokyo: Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister who is visiting Japan to try to reassure investors not to allow Israel-Palestinian tensions to deter them from doing business with his country, said yesterday that Tokyo was critical of Israel's closure of the West Bank and Gaza strip after a double suicide bombing.

"Japan has reservations about the closure, that is true, but it has not linked Israeli-Japanese economic ties or their development to our closure policy," he told Israeli Army radio.

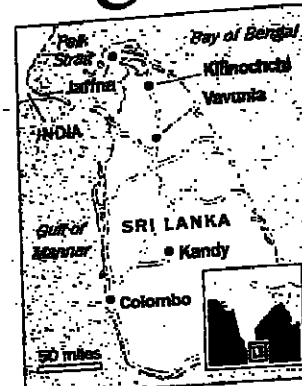
Israel sealed off the West Bank and Gaza, barring tens of thousands of Palestinians from their jobs in the Jewish state after suicide bombers

killed 14 people in a Jerusalem market on July 30. Palestinians condemned the economically crippling closure as collective punishment.

Mr Netanyahu, who is accompanied by his Finance Minister and business leaders, is spending three days in Japan before travelling to South Korea tomorrow on a similar mission. (Reuters)

Drive to open road link may doom Tigers

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN COLOMBO



THE bloodiest two years of Sri Lanka's civil war have taken the army of 120,000 men close to the vital objective of opening a road link from south to north of the country.

Victory would transform the conduct of one of the world's most persistent conflicts and severely weaken the Tamil Tigers, an increasingly hated and isolated fighting force.

Hundreds of soldiers and Tigers fighters have died in the past three months, a measure of the desperation of both sides to win the battle. Operation Jaya Sikuri (Victory Assured), launched at 5.20 am on May 13 on astrological advice, could be a defining assault of the war, leaving the rebels without secure territory and enabling the Government to reinforce control of the north.

Asoka Jayawardene, the northern operations commander of government forces, claimed that 2,000 Tigers had been killed and as many injured, destroying about half the rebels' fighting strength. "The objective of the offensive is to cripple the Tigers' fighting capability," he said.

His comments reflected confidence within the Government and the military that the rebels, although far from defeated, are taking an unprecedented beating from the biggest army offensive of the conflict.

More than 30,000 government troops are holding the northern Jaffna peninsula, captured last year after a prolonged assault. This topped the Tigers' de facto little state in which they operated a revenue collection system, courts and a police force. Since then they have established themselves in the jungles south of the peninsula, from where they continue to demonstrate their formidable military prowess.

The army pays dearly for its Jaffna victory, its troops have to be supplied by sea or air, a lifeline in constant danger of being snapped by the rebels. The Tigers fired a missile at a military plane last week, starting speculation that they have acquired heat-seeking shoulder-held Stingers. That would

disrupt air transport of troops and supplies to the north. The Tigers have also harassed shipping movements.

The vulnerability of air and sea routes makes a road link vital. Troops are trying to clear an area between the northern towns of Vavuni and Kilinochchi, but the Tigers are putting up furious resistance. The army has admitted to 650 dead and 4,000 wounded, mostly from three rebel counter-attacks.

The rate of killings is higher than it was in Bosnia, but the war in Sri Lanka does not capture international attention. Neelan Tiruchelvam, a respected Tamil MP, said: "The amount of human suffering is enormous. There are terrible losses on both sides. The Tigers are in a difficult position, but they cannot be written off. They tend to strike back hardest when they seem to be weakest."

The besieged rebels are unable to provide medical attention to all their wounded men, many of whom are left to die. The civilian Tamil population has mostly lost sympathy for the Tigers, who force young men into uniform and send them in waves to almost certain death against government targets. The loss of Jaffna denied the rebels their greatest advantage: direct control over the lives of tens of thousands of Tamils.

The road link between the south and north, known as the A9 trunk road, would connect Kandy and Jaffna, enabling construction materials to be moved north to begin rebuilding Jaffna city, a shattered town. The army has advanced barely 15 miles into rebel-held territory in three months and still has 35 miles to go before it can claim victory.

Seoul will offer farm tools to Pyongyang

Seoul: South Korean aid to North Korea will shift from food shipments to helping the country to revive its devastated agricultural sector, an official here said yesterday.

Some \$1.25 million out of \$6.25 million pledged last week will be spent on equipment to restore flood-damaged farmland, said a Unification Ministry official. About \$1.9 million to \$2.5 million would be used for medical supplies and the rest for children's food.

Details of the aid and its delivery are being worked out with the United Nations. "This is the first time we are donating farming tools, and we expect more aid aimed at helping North Korea to in-

crease its agricultural output rather than just sending food to carry the country over from year to year," the official said.

North Korea faces widespread famine after two years of floods, then heatwaves this summer that have parched the soil and damaged much of the autumn crop.

Seoul has said that it would discuss large-scale aid only if Pyongyang takes part in four-nation peace talks aimed at hammering out a lasting peace. The two Koreas have been in a state of war since 1950.

Next month senior officials of the two Koreas, the United States and China are due to meet for the second time to try to set an agenda for the talks.

Bethlehem blockade provokes new clashes

FROM ROSS DUNN IN JERUSALEM AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

SEVEN Palestinian protesters were injured by Israeli soldiers when youths and soldiers clashed for the third day in a row in blockaded Bethlehem.

About 20 youths threw stones at the soldiers, stationed just inside the self-rule area of Bethlehem, witnesses said. The troops responded with teargas and rubber bullets. Seven protesters were taken to hospital, one with serious injuries.

The site, Rachel's Tomb, a Jewish holy site, has been the scene for low-level clashes for the past three days as the heavy security seal on Bethlehem enters its fourth week. The stringent measures follow last month's suicide bombing in Jerusalem.

On Sunday, about 600 Christians from Italy held a protest prayer service at a military checkpoint on the West Bank, after soldiers denied them entry on a road connecting Bethlehem to Jerusalem.

The group, led by Bishop Luciano Giannetti, continued praying until the Israeli Defence Minister, Yitzhak Mordechai, intervened and allowed them to proceed.

One of the pilgrims, Father Rodolfo Cetoloni, said last night: "We prayed and sang and when we finally arrived, the people of Bethlehem also sang songs of praise and joy."

"We want the right to pray in a Christian place. Why is

this so difficult? It is a human right to be in a place of our religion."

A spokeswoman for the Israeli Defence Force said that the permission was granted to the Italian tourist groups "in response to an exceptional request". But generally tourist buses were being turned back, she said, meaning that officially the birthplace of Jesus has been off limits to Christian tourists for almost a month.

The spokeswoman said free travel to and from the city was only being granted to residents in need of urgent medical care.

The city's acting mayor, Hanna Nassar, said the closure was killing tourism, on which Bethlehem depends for its survival. "The economy is destroyed completely," he said. "The city is losing a

quarter of a million dollars daily."

As the unrest over Bethlehem security measures continued, more attacks on southern Lebanon were being made by Israeli jets yesterday.

Israeli planes fired rockets south of Beirut and the pro-Iranian Hezbollah movement said it exploded a roadside bomb in the latest wave of fighting in Lebanon. Witnesses in the town of Naameh, nine miles south of Beirut, said two planes fired four rockets at suspected positions of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command.

In Jerusalem, an army spokesman described the raids as attacks on terrorist targets. Pilots reported accurate hits, he said.

The radical PFLP-GC, which rejects any peace negotiations with Israel, holds hilltop bases in the Naameh area, where Israeli planes occasionally unleash rocket attacks.

Earlier yesterday, South Lebanon Army militia sources said one SLA militiaman was wounded in a bomb blast in Israel's nine-mile-wide south Lebanon occupation zone. Hezbollah claimed responsibility for the blast.

The assault triggered shelling from inside the occupation zone, which hit apartment buildings in the southern city of Nabatieh, security sources said.

Inquiry into shooting of Kaunda

FROM JAN RAATH IN HARARE

HUNDREDS of riot police patrolled a jittery Lusaka, the Zambian capital, yesterday while President Chiluba's administration indicated that it would hold an inquiry into the wounding at the weekend of former President Kaunda and another opposition leader when police opened fire on a political rally.

Brigadier Godfrey Miyanda, acting head of state while Mr Chiluba visits the Far East, said the shooting should not have happened and "would be something we would launch an inquiry into".

Standwell Lungu, a police spokesman, said it was unfortunate that the police had used live ammunition on a crowd of opposition supporters being addressed by Dr Kaunda and Roger Chongwe, leader of the Liberal Democratic Front, at Kabwe, 40 miles north of Lusaka, on Saturday.

Mr Chongwe was shot in the neck but was well enough yesterday to tell reporters from his hospital bed that he was recovering well. A bullet grazed the head of Dr Kaunda, 73. Mr Lungu said the meeting was illegal and police had been obliged to disperse the crowd.

In the northern Copperbelt area, graffiti appeared on main roads overnight saying: "If KK Dr Kaunda is killed, Chiluba will die too."

Setback to republican hopes in Australia

FROM ROGER MAYNARD IN SYDNEY

HOPES of declaring Australia a republic by the turn of the century were fading fast last night as parliament's upper house was poised to reject plans for a constitutional convention on the issue.

Opposition and independent members, who hold the balance of power in the Senate, were expected to turn down government plans for a voluntary postal vote to elect delegates to the convention, originally proposed for later this year.

Monarchists claimed Australians could forget the idea of a republic this century. Beryl Evans, a monarchist

League candidate for the convention, said: "We finally believe that the republicans can kiss the argument goodbye." She forecast that there would be no further debate on the issue under the present Government, which is not due to call an election until 1999.

Malcolm Turnbull, the ardent republican and lawyer, accused the Senate of playing into monarchists' hands. John Howard, the Prime Minister, a self-confessed supporter of the Queen, insisted the Government would not allow the opposition parties to dictate the terms of its constitutional convention.

Although Australian state and federal elections are normally compulsory, Mr

Howard said that a voluntary vote on this occasion would be much cheaper, saving up to \$22 million (£10 million).

The slow demise of the republican issue is in sharp contrast to the spirited campaign adopted by Paul Keating when Prime Minister earlier this decade. When Sydney won the right to host the 2000 Olympics, many prominent republicans hoped the event would be opened by Australia's first President.

Even republican sympathisers — about 50 per cent of the population, say latest polls — were last night privately conceding they might have to wait another ten or 15 years before Australia is ready to cut its last formal ties with Britain.

Mondrian at the Tate

at the Tate

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THE TIMES TUESDAY AUGUST 26 1997

Florida wins \$11bn from tobacco giants

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

FLORIDA claimed an historic victory over "big tobacco" yesterday after the industry agreed to pay \$11.3 billion (£7 billion) in compensation for money spent by the state on medical bills for smoking-related illnesses.

The out-of-court settlement brings a swift end to the multi-billion-dollar lawsuit which began last week in a West Palm Beach courtroom, and represents the clearest possible evidence that the once powerful American tobacco industry is now at its lowest legal ebb. It follows the \$3.6 billion settlement reached last month with the state of Mississippi.

Lawton Chiles, Florida's Governor, hailed the deal as "the largest monetary concession the industry has ever paid". Unlike the \$368 billion national settlement, struck in June between the industry and the attorneys-general of 40 states, the Florida deal needs neither Congressional approval nor the assent of the White House. In fact, it will be enforced by the state's courts and will take effect almost immediately.

Although Florida had sued for \$12.3 billion, the lower

settlement is still a handsome one. In addition, a substantial proportion of the amount represents a "punitive settlement", designed to punish the industry for "misleading the public about the dangers of smoking, and the addictive nature of nicotine".

In addition to the onerous financial settlement, the tobacco industry has also promised to pull down all its advertising billboards in the state of Florida within six months. It has been asked to begin with advertisements featured on sites near schools.

Furthermore, all cigarette vending machines located in places where children could conceivably have access will be removed. Outdoor advertising at sports arenas and on buses will be scrapped, too.

Of the \$11.3 billion, Florida will receive one payment, as yet unspecified, "up front". The rest will be paid by the tobacco industry in instalments over the next 25 years.

The capitation of the tobacco industry reflects the hard-headed assessment of its lawyers that Florida, of all the American states, provided the most difficult test of its defence that it was not liable for the

risks voluntarily taken by smokers. The state's 1994 Medicaid Liability Act, more than any other factor, effectively crippled the industry's case.

The Florida statute robbed big tobacco of its most effective defence, that individuals knew the risks of smoking and therefore assumed the responsibility for the results of their actions. The Act does not permit this "assumption of risk" argument in Medicaid (or state health care) liability cases.

There were other setbacks, too, early in the trial that pushed the industry against the legal wall. Judge Harold Cohen, of the West Palm Beach Circuit Court, ruled that the defence lawyers could not tell the jury that the state of Florida was complicit in the sale of tobacco, nor that it had collected hundreds of millions of dollars in taxes each year on cigarette sales.

The choice of venue was also not in their favour. West Palm Beach is a stronghold of Mr Chiles, a Democrat. It has a reputation for generous jury verdicts, and the population from which jurors are drawn is better educated and better paid than the American average. Big tobacco has traditionally done best with poor, uneducated juries.

Mr Chiles said yesterday that the state had won on three important grounds: "protecting Florida's children, making tobacco pay for the damage it has caused our taxpayers, and for cigarette makers to finally tell the truth".

The last point is a reference to the unprecedented admissions made last week by Geoffrey Bible, the chairman of Philip Morris, and Steven Goldstone, the chief executive of RJR Nabisco, that smoking could be injurious to health.

Mr Bible conceded that smoking "might have" led to illness in over 100,000 Americans, and Mr Goldstone admitted that he had always believed, "rightly or wrongly, that smoking plays a part in causing lung cancer".

This is the closest the tobacco industry has yet come to a mea culpa.

Smuggling rise may scupper cigarette deal

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX IN WASHINGTON

THE WORLD's largest tobacco companies are selling billions of dollars of cigarettes each year to traders who funnel them into the black market, according to US officials.

The volume of cigarette smuggling around the world has tripled in the past decade and costs governments more than \$16 billion a year (£10 billion), according to an investigation by *The New York Times*.

The growing scale of smuggling could scupper a key part of the \$368.5 billion tobacco settlement with US companies. According to the deal, before the US Government can order them to cut nicotine

levels in cigarettes, it must prove that this would not lead to a black market in high-strength cigarettes.

Tobacco-opponents fear that new evidence about the surge in smuggling, partly caused by the opening of huge new markets in Russia and Eastern Europe, makes this impossible.

According to officials and court documents, a quarter of American brands sold abroad may pass through smuggling rings to evade taxes. In several recent high profile court cases, tobacco companies say they have not knowingly contributed to smuggling and deny responsibility for the ultimate destination of their products.

Parents call for release of man who shot Reagan

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

MORE than 16 years after John Hinckley attempted to assassinate President Reagan, his parents have sparked a national debate in America by launching a crusade for their son's liberty.

Jack and Jo Ann Hinckley, who have poured their energy into promoting awareness of mental health since the shooting, now believe he is ready to leave St Elizabeth's Hospital, a psychiatric home in Washington, for limited rehabilitation. But America has never released a would-be presidential assassin.

The Hinckley story is one of the most familiar in recent American history. A dour loner who had become obsessed with Jodie Foster, the actress, Hinckley had fired on Mr Reagan to gain the affection of the celebrity he had never met.

It was a rainy March afternoon in 1981 when he approached the presidential entourage outside the Washington Hilton and fired six bullets. The gunfire wounded the President, a Secret Service agent, a Washington police officer and, most seriously, James Brady, the press secretary, who has been left crippled in a wheelchair and mentally debilitated.

Found guilty by reason of insanity, Hinckley, now 42, has spent the past 15 years in St Elizabeth's, moving gradually from the maximum to the minimum security wing.

In June, his request for monthly 12-hour outside visits with his parents was rejected, first by the hospital's review board and then by a federal judge. In her ruling the judge cited disputed claims by one hospital nurse that Hinckley had harassed her.

Most of his psychiatrists now agree that the psychotic disorder that provoked his attack has vanished and the Hinckleys are pressing for their son's partial freedom.

"We would want him to live in our neighbourhood," said Mr Hinckley, 72, who moved the family home from Colorado to Virginia in the 1980s to work as a salesman. "He's totally safe. Several doctors have verified that, and one even said he was too well to get into a hospital."

The rest of America, however, appears distinctly cool to the idea. Mr Brady and his

wife have become icons for gun control throughout the country, deployed regularly by President Clinton to promote his efforts against crime. Both Bradys believe Hinckley should remain in hospital.

Michael Reagan, the President's son and a popular talk-show host, is equally firm. "His parents care about him, and God bless them for that," he said. "But when you commit a crime, you do the time. It does not matter if you are mentally ill."

In the first decade after the attack, Hinckley made almost no progress. He attempted suicide three times after his arrest. Quite suddenly, he started to show signs of improvement and doctors took him off psychiatric medication in 1992. Three years ago he was granted unlimited privileges to wander around the grounds with Leslie DeVau, a former social worker who works at the hospital and has been his girlfriend for a decade.

The Hinckleys believe the bond forged between the couple has been a critical part of the cure which has made their son recognise his past.

Paris: The Musée d'Orsay yesterday showed off a newly acquired drawing of six ballet dancers dressing for a practice session by the French Impressionist Edgar Degas. Officials described it as an historically important masterpiece.

Museum experts said that the pastel, drawn in 1884 or 1885, was the first in a celebrated series of pastels and oil paintings of dancers by Degas. "In its nearly square format, its strong composition and its frank and subtle back-lighting, this pastel is without doubt the masterpiece of Degas' classic period," the museum said.

The work was given to the state by an anonymous benefactor in place of taxes he expected on his estate, officials said. (Reuters)

Paris museum gets Degas masterpiece

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Pigeons may be protected species

BY TOM RHODES

THE PIGEON population of San Francisco may never match the flocks of central London but residents are so concerned about the growing bird colony they are now considering heated shelters to keep the feathered pests off the Californian city's rooftops.

The quirky solution took wing after complaints by the Ramada International Plaza that the pigeons encamped on its roof were splattering guests and soiling the facade of the hotel in the heart of San Francisco.

In a request to the city council, the hotel demanded that hundreds of the birds be trapped and evicted to the countryside of northern California, provoking an immediate chorus of dissent among pigeon fanciers, who said the birds would starve en route to exile.

Faced with the irreconcilable forces of business and animal rights, the council has now turned to a proposal from Jane Levinsohn, a suburban housewife from Marin County who telephoned the department of animal care and control to suggest the pigeon condominiums.

"It would be a much better solution than trapping them and placing them in the wild," she said yesterday. "Pigeons are urban scavengers and they would always find their way back to a town or a city."

Some building owners in San Francisco spend as much as \$200,000 (£125,000) to ensure that they are free of pigeon droppings and Mrs Levinsohn's plan is gaining momentum among council members who believe the money may be better spent designing the bird apartments — fully heated, of course, to escape the often chilly fog that creeps across the San Francisco Bay.

"It would be great public relations for the hotel," said Mrs Levinsohn. "They could have a contest among local architects and call it the Ramada Pigeon Inn."

Almost anywhere else the idea might be deemed bird-brained. But animal rights is a serious business in San Francisco. Asian butchers have been accused of cruelly killing chickens; attempts have been made to protect feral cats in the city's parks and one activist recently complained that men on Fisherman's Wharf were performing "crab executions".

Gerard Baker, the superintendent of the 700-acre battlefield park, is forthright in his defence of the memorial. Speaking to *The New York Times*, he said: "This memorial will represent all the fallen American Indian people."

Himself a Mandan Hidatsa Indian from North Dakota, he adds with a flourish: "This wasn't the only battle the Indians won."

Detractors are upset that the new memorial will cost as much as \$2 million (£1.25 million) to erect, while the existing memorial to the US cavalrymen, a weather-whipped granite obelisk, has a modern-day replacement value of \$50,000. The memorial, designed by a husband-and-wife team of architects, neither of whom has ever set foot in Little Bighorn, is to be a circular earthen berm, or pathway, with a ceremonial gathering place in the middle.

The architects describe it as "an elemental landmark". Visitors will enter the grass-covered berm from the east through a narrow passage. To the north, through an opening called the "weeping wound", they will see three larger-than-life sculptures of Indian warriors on horseback.

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Elrose Joseph takes her five-year-old twin sons Julius, left, and Julian to church in St John's as usual on Sunday. Yesterday Britain's assisted voluntary evacuation scheme was due to restart, but on Saturday only 12 of the 4,000 still living on the island took up the offer to go

Islanders determined to build anew

The people of Montserrat are snubbing Britain's evacuation plans and looking to a future in the island's north. David Adams reports from Davy Hill

MONTserrat's Chief Minister hit out at Britain again yesterday, saying that, despite iron-clad pledges to help to develop a new infrastructure on the island's safe north end, all building projects have been halted.

David Brandt said, before the announcement of the new Whitehall action group: "There is a widespread belief in Montserrat that they [the British Government] are giving lip service to the north, but by their actions they are making people leave."

He hoped the island would get fair treatment from Tony Blair and that he would, "as a born-again Christian, ... act according to biblical principals".

The problem was "not so much the volcano, which has been quiet in recent days, but the living conditions which Britain has allowed to develop", he said. Since the volcano first erupted in July 1995, thousands have been forced to abandon their homes. Many now live in crowded refugee shelters,

but few are now taking up offers of voluntary evacuation.

Yesterday, in a gesture of Caribbean solidarity, Percival Patterson, the Prime Minister of Jamaica, visited Montserrat. Sitting at the controls of a large bulldozer, he broke the ground on a small Caribbean-financed housing project for 30 homes on the northwest coast.

His visit highlighted growing concern in the region that Britain is not doing enough. At a summit meeting in Jamaica last month, heads of state of the Caribbean Community (Caricom) — a grouping of former British colonies — pledged to help Montserrat.

As its chairman, Mr Patterson will host a special Caricom meeting on Antigua later today.

Some of the £41 million that Britain has devoted to the crisis has been used to construct a jetty and two schools. However, Mr Brandt said the schools were now refugee shelters for evacuees from near the Soufrière Hills.

A construction company, Brown and Root, began levelling land in the north several weeks ago to build 250 prefabricated homes. Materials are believed to be on their way, but Mr Brandt said he had been advised the project was now on hold.

Islanders point to a study that involved total resettlement of all displaced residents, businesses and services to a "designated safe area" in the north.

The Development Strategy for North Montserrat was commissioned by the local ministry of agriculture, trade and environment, and completed by a British engineer in May 1996.

The plan was based on scientific estimates of the volcano risk, and proposed 232 acres of new housing, 11.5 acres set aside for commercial development, and alternative lands for new agricultural cultivation.

The local government said that it had been approached by private consultants who have proposed development schemes. One involves a joint venture with the Montserrat government to construct "a pretty waterside town" for 2,500 people in the northwest corner.

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WORLD SUMMARY

US accuses Libya over bomb letter

Washington: Janet Reno, the United States Attorney-General, said a letter sent by Libya to the families of the 270 passengers who died in the 1988 bombing over Lockerbie was "a callous attempt to prey on their emotions". It argued that any trial of the two Libyan suspects should be moved to a neutral venue.

4,367 executed

Beijing: China has executed more people in the 1990s than the rest of the world put together. Last year alone, China imposed death sentences on more than 6,000 people, and executed 4,367. (Reuters)

Shelling restarts

Chon Chom Pass: Artillery and mortar fire resumed intermittently on Cambodia's Thai border, less than 12 hours after the last royalist stronghold fell to troops loyal to Hun Sen, the coup leader. (Reuters)

Algiers blast

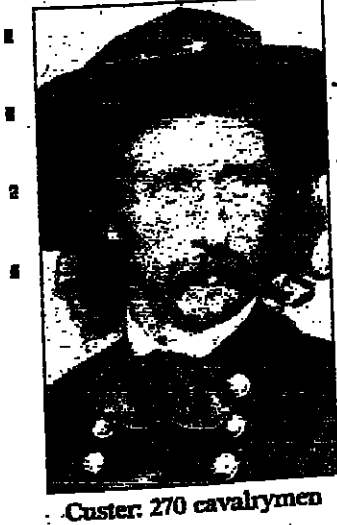
Paris: A bomb ripped through a market in the Algiers suburb of El Biar, killing four people and wounding 49, state television said. Muslim extremists were blamed for the blast. (Reuters)

Quake panic

Tehran: Sixty-seven people were injured, most of them when they jumped from rooftops in panic, as houses swayed during an earthquake in Fars province, southern Iran, news agencies said. (A)

Barbie bust

Moscow: Russian customs officers detained an unnamed American woman, en route to Slovenia, at Moscow's international airport after finding 15lb of cocaine in a box with Barbie doll. (Reuters)



Custer: 270 cavalymen

BY TUNKU VARADARAJAN

ANGRY white traditionalists are calling for a halt to a memorial at Little Bighorn, designed to honour Sitting Bull's Sioux warriors who died 121 years ago in their victory over General Custer and the Seventh Cavalry.

Work on the memorial is set to begin this week at the Little Bighorn National Monument, run by the US National Parks Service, some 50 miles east of Billings, Montana.

The project was conceived in a 1991 Act of Congress, signed into law by President Bush. Yet enraged critics say that erecting an Indian monument at Little Bighorn is akin to "handing the Vietnam War memorial over to the Vietnamese".

Critics say that the memorial will

"Indianise" the battlefield. James Court, a local tour operator who was once the monument's superintendent, said: "It takes things too far over to one side."

Wayne Sarf, who publishes a monthly newsletter on General Custer, has also spoken out. He said: "If you want to emphasise the Indian victory, please don't do it at the mass grave of 200 US soldiers."

About 270 cavalymen and their Indian scouts were killed in the battle in 1876, when Lieutenant Colonel George Armstrong Custer — who attained the rank of Major-General of Volunteers in the American Civil War — led his troops into battle against more than 2,000 Sioux warriors: Custer's Last Stand.

Critics of the memorial accuse

politicians of "ethnic pandering" in their "assault on the memory of Custer". Mr Sarf's ire, and that of his confrères, has been roused by the stated goal of the memorial project: to "rectify history's imbalance of the Indian role and sacrifice" at the battle.

The 1991 law which mandated the memorial also stripped Custer's name from the site, deeming it offensive to today's American Indians.

Detractors are upset that the new memorial will cost as much as \$2 million (£1.25 million) to erect, while the existing memorial to the US cavalrymen, a weather-whipped granite obelisk, has a modern-day replacement value of \$50,000. The memorial, designed by a husband-and-wife team of architects, neither of whom has ever set foot in Little Bighorn, is to be a

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Sitting Bull: wins twice

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The prediction that saved my life

Grounded by a fortune-teller's warning, foreign correspondent Tiziano Terzani made a journey into the occult. Interview by Bill Frost

Sitting cross-legged on his battered sofa, Tiziano Terzani radiates happiness and energy: his eyes twinkle and his smile is infectious.

The ideas flow in rushing torrents — a tirade against technology, a vivid description of the fall of Saigon and a potted history of his family in Florence. While he dashes from one subject to the next, the telephone rings constantly in this tiny North London attic flat.

Terzani is an exhausting but exhilarating company. Born in Florence, educated in Europe and the United States, for the past 25 years he has been based in South-East Asia, working as a foreign correspondent for *Der Spiegel*. He has a wealth of anecdotes, but none is stranger than the story of his own travels, about which he has written a book, *A Fortune-Teller Told Me*, significantly subtitled, *Earth-bound Travels in the Far East* (HarperCollins £18).

Drawn to the exotic and the curious, Terzani had casually studied Far Eastern magic and mysticism for some years before consulting a Hong Kong fortune-teller in 1976. The old man's warning could not have been more specific: "Beware! You run a grave risk of dying in 1993. You mustn't fly that year... even once."

The importance of the prediction did not fade with the passage of time. As the years passed, the fortune-teller's warning weighed more heavily on his mind. "I am not a crank or a gullible fool, I am a hard-nosed hack who is not easily taken in, but I challenge anyone not to take a prediction like that to heart," he says.

At the end of 1992, Terzani told his foreign editor that he would not be travelling anywhere by air the following year. "Magnificent as usual, my faraway master replied: 'Do as you think best'."

There were other factors behind his decision — the fortune-teller alone had not made up his mind. I had become depressed by what I had seen over 25 years of reporting — the tinpot tyrannies drenched with the blood of their innocent victims, the wars, the corruption and the futility.

"I needed to slow down, turn off the highway of technology and reason and look inside myself. A different way of life from the one I had led might free me of depression."

"I was 55 and had the strong urge to travel slowly and learn how to shut out all the petty annoyances and disappointments which had weighed down my spirit, and learn, too, about myself."

"Wherever I went during that year, I sought out famous mystics, sorcerers and fortune-tellers. During my travels I came into contact with aspects of life South-East I had never seen before. It was all part of my fight against modernity and my own depression caused by the injustice and unremitting cruelty I had seen."

The seers and soothsayers he sought out were "mostly charlatans and mountebanks", he says. "Yet each taught me something about human nature, my own included."

Some came uncannily close to credibility while others were frauds preying on the gullible.

Some practised black magic and others white. At Betong, on the border between Thailand and Malaysia, Terzani found a magician who at first appeared to be a charlatan but later "told me things about myself that he could not possibly have guessed at".

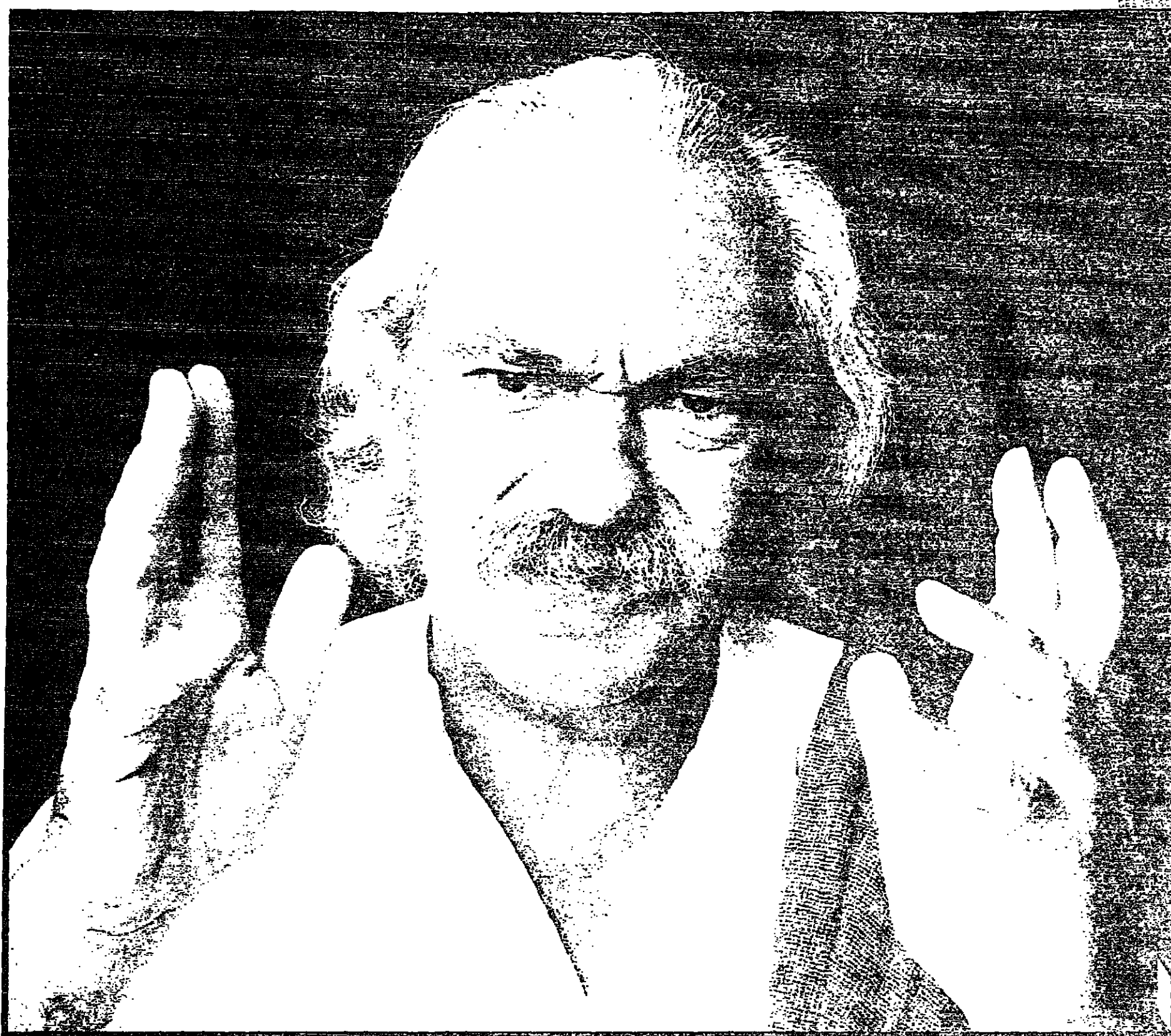
The telephone rings again. It is William Shawcross, an old friend and fellow veteran foreign correspondent who has described Terzani as one of Europe's most accomplished writers. He blushes at the compliment, describing himself as "just a hack at heart".

Yet there is a touch of vanity too. The long white hair and walrus moustache have been grown to attract attention. The carefully tailored white clothes he always wears were not meant for the jungles of South-East Asia, nor were the expensive leather shoes.

So was there an element of narcissism and self-absorption in his year among the yogis, fakirs and fortune-tellers, always asking questions about himself?

Almost certainly not. Terzani's was a journey of self-discovery. "At the end of that year I had renounced all in my life that was unnecessary. I started looking at things in a different way: it was almost as though my experiences had opened a third eye in my head."

"I came to terms with my depression, too. I was angry about so much that I had seen... why was there no justice? Why wasn't Pol Pot hauled before a Cambodian court and



Tiziano Terzani: "I renounced all in my life that was unnecessary and started looking at things in a different way. It was as if my experiences had opened a third eye"

publicly hanged? Why have so many died across South-East Asia in futile conflict? Why are so many children hungry?"

"I think after 25 years of reporting such events — war, disaster, famine — I had the right to be just a little depressed and to take the time to find myself again. I have every right to be indignant and angry. Too many journalists today don't have that indignation, they report without feeling."

Terzani says he was drawn back from the depths of depression by the "madness" of the Far East. "I found it comforting and, yes, a bit like

a drug. Life is a senseless business and during my year on the road I was just trying to make some order out of chaos. I believe that some of the fortune-tellers and magicians I met do have a kind of gift, learnt from constant exposure to other people's problems."

"I believe also that some have a power for evil. For example, in Indonesia I came across a much darker side of magic — there are people there who are said to be capable of killing with a spell."

"Some wizards can apparently drive nails into a victim's flesh by the power of thought. The magician stands in his

hut, poses his spell and three miles away someone screams in pain — I am 110 dismiss such stories when there are so many? In Indonesia I sensed evil coming in waves off some of those I met."

"I say again though, I am no one's fool, no gullible dupe or crackpot. I'm a down-to-earth man who has enjoyed the luxury of escaping from the superhighway of modern life for a year to find slowness, silence and real commitment."

And the Hong Kong fortune-teller's prediction that he would die in an air crash if he flew in 1993?

"In March of that year while

I was staying in Penang, a United Nations helicopter carrying 15 journalists, among them my replacement from *Der Spiegel*, crashed in Cambodia. It was the aircraft that I should have been on, there's no doubt about it. My colleagues were injured, but all survived."

"Was this proof he had been right? I had liked to think of the occult as a possibility, not a certainty. Now though I have learnt not to look for answers or certainty in science and technology. Don't rely only on logic to meet your needs. I have discovered that there is so much more to life than cold reason."

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The lost tribe of American Jews

Tunku Varadarajan reports on the challenge to Judaism from liberal attitudes and intermarriage

Are America's Jews a vanishing tribe? Are liberal cultural values, so rooted in American Jewish discourse, actually a threat to the tribe's very existence? Is there too much matrimony between Jews and Gentiles, and is American Jewry heading for "extinction by intermarriage"?

These and other questions have been raised by a prominent member of America's Jewish community, and his answer to each is "yes". Elliott Abrams, a former Assistant Secretary of State in the Reagan Administration, has

argued that if "his people" are not careful, they will soon face "self-inflicted extinction".

In a powerful new book, Mr Abrams urges a "return to the synagogue" to stave off the imminent disappearance of the community. *Faith or Fear: How Jews Can Survive in a Christian America* is also a withering critique of the secular Jewish establishment.

Mr Abrams, who now presides over the Washington-based Centre for Ethics and Public Policy, argues provocatively that Jews must emulate the Christian Right. He is alarmed by what he calls the

"demographic disaster", which has seen a steady decline in Jews as a percentage of America's population.

In 1914, Jews comprised 4 per cent of Americans. Today, they are only 2 per cent. Demographers predict a drop of anywhere from one million to two million in the American Jewish population over the next two generations. The Jewish community's headlong plunge into liberalism and assimilation, Mr Abrams argues, has led to the phenomenon of "the vanishing American Jew". This deracinated Jewry, he believes, is particularly susceptible to intermarriage with people from other communities, which dilutes America's Jewishness still further.

Intermarriage is a central pillar of Mr Abrams' worries. More than 60 per cent of all Reform Jews today marry outside the community. Of these, only a quarter raise their offspring as Jews.

While not calling explicitly for an end to intermarriage, the author makes it abundantly clear that American Jews must address the issue as a matter of urgency. Intermarriage, in his view, is a symptom of the "flight from Judaism", not its cause.

Mr Abrams calls on Jews to reconsider their commitment to secular liberal values, values that have now become "the greatest threat to Jewish continuity". Rather than attacking Christian fundamentalists, Jews should follow their example. Conservative Christians, he believes, are the natural allies of Jews. "The American Jewish community must conceive of itself as a



Professional triumph and assimilation are burying Judaism

religious community," he writes, and the Christian groups that regard themselves as confessional entities offer an important example.

The book's central thesis is robust: American Jewish interests are "more consistent with those of other people of faith than with secular liberals who want to drive religion out of public life completely."

Mr Abrams calls on Jews to abandon their complacency. Free from the scourge of anti-

Semitism, Jews have prospered and, in many cases, come to dominate the American mainstream. In this success, however, lies a bitter paradox: professional triumph and assimilation are burying Judaism as effectively as pogroms and persecution. Pray, the author says to his people, so that you may survive. He means it literally.

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Richard Cork takes his magnifying glass to the Queen's Gallery exhibition of miniatures. Plus other London shows

Small, but perfectly informed

At a time when contemporary art often verges on the colossal, the virtues of portrait miniatures can easily be overlooked. Most of the exquisite images now on view at the Queen's Gallery are small enough to fit into a jewel, pendant or bracelet, but their size should never allow us to underestimate their power, nor the near-miraculous skill involved in their execution.

Selected from the riches of the Royal Collection, *Masterpieces in Little* is an exhibition to relish. Its contents present a tough curatorial challenge. For these objects, many painted in watercolour on vellum laid on to playing cards, were never intended to be displayed on a gallery's walls. Preserved in jewellery boxes or cabinets designed for the purpose, they were only taken out when their owners wanted to savour them.

Hence their astonishing state of preservation. The images displayed here often seem as pristine as they must once have been in the artist's studio. Each hairsbreadth brushstroke is visible in all its original freshness and delicacy. As a result, the sitters defy their portraits' dimensions and present themselves to us with remarkable immediacy. Clustered in small groups united by the artist who painted them, or membership of a particular dynasty, they gain from the sensible decision to divide the gallery up into a sequence of modest chambers. These paintings may lack the informality of snapshots in a family album, but they do bring us surprisingly close to people who would otherwise appear remote and unimaginable.

Even the Ghent-born Lucas Hornebolte, who lacked the supreme mastery of his pupil, Hans Holbein, was able to make Henry VIII approachable. The miniature's size militates against excessive grandeur, and the 35-year-old monarch looks unexpectedly pink-lipped and lively. Although his dark eyes are already cold and suspicious, he is far removed from the implacable, corpulent bully so familiar from later, bigger state portraits in oil.

Employed as the King's Painter from 1535 onwards, Hornebolte would have been expected to depict the royal circle with appropriate dignity. But his miniature of the monarch's illegitimate son, Henry Fitzroy, Duke of Richmond, reveals a great deal about the 15-year-old sinner's vulnerability. Dressed only in a white shift, and crowned by a nightcap bound with alarming tightness around his head, the youth looks blanched enough to be an invalid. The portrait's mood was only too prophetic within a year of its completion: he had died of tuberculosis.

So the miniature proved capable of conveying insights too painful for admission in a large-scale, public painting. To judge by the four works by Holbein on view here, he could go even further towards candour than Hornebolte. Two of the pictures, depicting prominent women at the Tudor court, stop well short of troubling disclosure. But the other two, showing Henry Brandon and his

brother Charles as children, are far more revealing.

Probably commissioned by their father, the Duke of Suffolk, the portraits depict the boys in their most sumptuous clothes. Beneath the finery, though, they look far from robust. Charles is studious and intense, clutching a written parchment as if to proclaim his precocious academic prowess. And Henry, his pale face bent at an openly weary angle, seems more fragile. He looks almost bloodless, dreamily removed from all thoughts of worldly ambition. Both brothers turned out to be formidable scholars at Cambridge. But only a decade after Holbein painted them with such presence, the sweating sickness killed them within half an hour of each other.

Needless to say, Elizabeth I had no time for pathos in her portraits. Nor did she approve of realism. Nicholas Hilliard, the Queen's favourite painter, was expected to present the monarch as a goddess untouched by time. No shadows were permitted to pollute the Queen's flat, white face, with its incisively delineated features. They disclosed nothing beyond an unchanging poise, wholly protected from the ravages noted in 1598 when the ageing Elizabeth was described by an eyewitness as "fair, but wrinkled... her teeth black". In Hilliard's cosmetic images, she remained the unblemished Virgin Queen to the end.

It is a relief, after such unvarying artificiality, to encounter Isaac Oliver. He flourished under the patronage of Stuart Kings who relished the latest developments in Renaissance art. Born in Rouen just before his father fled to England as a Huguenot refugee, Oliver presented himself in a consummate self-portrait as an unabashed dandy. He revelled in the opportunity to paint the hook-nosed Anne of Denmark, arrayed in all the fantastical finery of a Jacobean court masque. And his masterpiece, a larger *Portrait of a Melancholy Young Man*, sums up the pensive yearning cultivated by so many bookish aristocrats of the period. But however pining his expression may be, the elegant sinner makes sure that fanciful lacework trimmings are flaunted at the top of his black stockings. Sadness is presented with an impeccably fashionable sense of style.

Oliver's versatility and accomplishment make his principal successor, John Hoskins, look humdrum. Hoskins could not be faulted on technical grounds in his portraits of Charles I and the carefully ringleted Henrietta Maria, but both these images pale beside the far greater panache flaunted by Van Dyck in his monumental oil portraits of the same sitters.

Charles seems to have valued miniaturists mainly for their ability to produce faithful, portable copies of the Titians in his collection. But Samuel Cooper, who became Charles II's favourite miniaturist after 1660, was an outstanding artist in his own right. Excellent at evoking the siren-like allure of



Larger than life: (clockwise from top left) Richard Cosway's miniature of George IV when Prince of Wales, painted in 1795; Sir W.C. Ross's Victoria, Princess Royal (c 1850); Robert Bowyer's Lord Nelson (c 1800) and Isaac Oliver's *Portrait of a Melancholy Young Man* (1590)

Barbara Villiers, the King's mistress and mother of their six children, Cooper was just as impressive with flinty male sitters. His portrait of the redoubtable soldier George Monck, Duke of Albemarle, leaves no room for doubt about the rock-like resolve of the man whose armed march on London led to the Restoration.

After his death in 1672, the miniature went into a long decline. Its popularity continued for another two centuries, and royal patronage was duly bestowed on its leading practitioners. But compared with the aesthetic excellence achieved by Holbein, Hilliard, Oliver and Cooper, it became increasingly dogged.



Occasionally, an isolated image stands out. Jean Etienne Liotard's exceptional self-portrait, posed in limpid profile, catches the singleness of a Swiss artist who wore Turkish dress and sported a beard elongated enough to reach his girdle. Other miniaturists, though, seem either dull or simpering. No wonder the demand

for miniaturists faded after the invention of photography. They had long since failed to live up to their Tudor and Stuart forerunners, whose most beguiling and tenacious work still has the capacity to astound.

Masterpieces in Little at the Queen's Gallery, Buckingham Palace (0171-799 233), until Oct 5

AROUND THE GALLERIES

IT IS unusual to generate such an atmosphere but Laurent Delaye shows once again his very particular choice of gallery artist in the exhibition *Afternoon in the Park*. The work is domestic, strange, local, unnerving, quiet, disconcerting and downright sexual. Cland McCall's pencil-drawn overview is really very good indeed. The virtuosity is not the matter as this highly detailed broad sweep covers a considerable section of just about any futuristic anywhere. It is possible, on reflection, over time, to notice appalling incident, trauma, death and dereliction. On tracing the road from junction to grave mounds it is possible to feel a silent sweeping sense of separation. James Kelly paints father and son or mother with child hidden under the jumper in a faint but nonetheless sexual manner. Child faces are full of painful knowledge while parents patently block it out. Sixteen English smooths sexual motions across a shiny surface by drawing and painting small figures going through a series of broken actions.

Laurent Delaye Gallery, 22 Barrett St, Christopher Place, London W1 (0171-629 5905), until Aug 30

INSTEAD of making apparently deadpan, fill-in flash photographs of other worlds and other habits, Martin Parr now focuses in further to make pictures which play a more ambiguous pictorial role. In his current exhibition at the Rocket Gallery, timed to coincide with the publication of *West Bay*, a limited edition book of photographs and poems by others, he uses the heightened "unnatural" colour of seaside hydrangeas and wooden fence to bleed the vision off the edge. People do not exist in the same way; in his photographs Parr plays more instead with the detail of car boot, metal deckchair, bald head and flip-flop to conjure up a sense of place.

Rocket Gallery, 13 Old Burlington St, London W1 (0171-434 3043), until Sept 20

Jason Martin's large paintings carry an element of illusion about them. As the wave of drawn, dragged paint makes a bump, the flatness of surface surrenders to a simple pretence of space. Martin's process is simple, the idea is also simple and yet within that there can be variety. There may be a bit too much variety here, and there is at times a sense of arbitrary decision-making. Martin experiments with many different grounds, blasted glass, brushed aluminium, stainless steel and melamine, in the quest for the perfect flat and smooth surface; he also uses many different sizes and this often renders the smaller paintings a bit too much like formal questions on what to do next. *Lower 1997*, a cherry-red landscape format painting on Perspex, is very luxurious in its manipulation of semi-translucent paint, and yet often in this monochromatic world his choice of colour seems caught between generosity and denial.

Lisson Gallery, 52-54 Bell St and 67 Lisson St, London NW1 (0171-724-3739), until Sept 6

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EDINBURGH FESTIVAL: Valery Gergiev continues his orchestral marathon

Dutch brass in need of polish

There are other conductors besides Valery Gergiev. But the three orchestral concerts before Carlo Rizzi and the RSO's timely intervention with Rossini's *Pelle Mele Solenne* were conducted by Gergiev. So were the two Usher Hall concerts immediately after that event. That makes something like a quarter of the orchestral concerts presented by the Edinburgh Festival this year.

It has been an heroic performance in many ways. Gergiev has twice collaborated with the alarmingly unpredictable Alexander Toradze, who has delivered much *Prokofiev*, including the whole of the *Romeo and Juliet* ballet music with his other orchestra, the Rotterdam Philharmonic, he has contributed to the twin themes of Bartók and Stravinsky and he has joined in the festival's 50th birthday celebration of the famous concert when Bruno Walter was reunited with the Vienna Philharmonic in Scriabin's *Unfinished* and Mahler's *Das Lied von der Erde* in the Usher Hall in 1947.

He has not always appeared in the most flattering light, however. Too often — presumably because of his willingness to take on such a varied repertoire in such a short time — he has been glued to the score, diligently guiding the orchestra through performances which ought to have been so well rehearsed that he had to do was inspire them. His Usher Hall account of

Bartók's *Music for Strings, Percussion and Celesta* with the Rotterdam PO was efficiently organised in the opening fugue, rhythmically well informed but generally under-coloured.

With the same orchestra, he did what he could for the putative Bartók Viola Concerto but, even with Yuri Bashmet as soloist, Tibor Serly's dubious reconstruction needs very much more persuasive advocacy than that.

Where Gergiev was for should have been free from technical restraints, in the *Unfinished Symphony*, he encountered a false entry from the Rotterdam brass within the first few bars and, while securing some lovely pianissimos from the strings, over-

indulged himself in the rare luxury of shaping and colouring. Sadly, although it was not the wrong orchestra for *Das Lied von der Erde* — Holland's distinguished Mahler tradition was evident in the woodwind solos — and although Ben Heppner was positively the right tenor, Anne Sofie von Otter was not the right mezzo and Gergiev probably not the right conductor.

He seemed at times to enter Mahler's sound world, particularly in the orchestral interlude in the last movement. But with the key soloist stylistically out of place and emotionally reserved, for all her integrity, he did not stand much of a chance.

GERALD LARNER

Thinking big pays off

OPERA

black backdrop. The battle of spiritual and temporal authority is highlighted by the crowd's placard of the King of Egypt, reversed to reveal Kamfis, the High Priest, by the casting of the Egyptian king into jail, and by the soldiers' escorting of Amneris at the end.

The meaty tone of Geraint Dodd's Rhythms was used with considerable musicality, and Anne Williams-King brought a flexible line to bear on the title role. After an uncertain start, Klara Ullmann's flesh and blood Amneris gained in confidence to evoke much sympathy in her final lament. Geraint Quinn was a strong Antonias, Graeme Danby a formidable Kamfis and Michael Pearson an admirable King of Egypt. Amanda

Holden's skilful translation was projected clearly, and Keith Darlington's exemplary conducting complemented an outstanding production.

It is a very different story in Robin Tebbutt's production of *Tosca*, designed by Alison Hafferman, which cramps the action into too confined a space and makes an unconvincing list of the emotional dynamics of the piece with cardboard acting and ill-motivated blocking. A variant of the game of *One Sitting, One Standing, One Lying* results in such implausibilities as Scarpia's agent, Spoleto, occupying the police chief's seat in his presence, and the recently tortured Cavaradossi jumping on a table to celebrate eventual victory.

The lighting has all the subtlety of a Basilid discotheque, but to be fair there are several moments of high drama when staging and musical direction (Anthony Hogg) combine to powerful effect. Naomi Harvey looked and moved stunningly as Tosca, while Eugene Ginty and Henry Newman were very acceptable as Cavaradossi and Scarpia.

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Clare Short replies to criticism of her efforts to help the people of an island threatened with volcanic devastation

Five weeks ago I attended a service at the Wesleyan Holiness Church in Ladywood to mourn the suffering of the people of Montserrat, and particularly the recent deaths caused by the volcano. The church was packed. The Montserratians there spoke with enormous dignity of the damage to their island, of the large numbers who had left and their concern for those who remained.

I said at the service that I was determined to offer choices to the 5,000 people who stayed. Six thousand had left since the volcano started to erupt two years ago. All had done so under their own steam. Fifteen hundred had come to Britain, about 3,000 had gone to Antigua. The rest had moved to other parts of the Americas. My concern was that those who remained may have lacked the resources to pay the fare to come to Britain or the expenses to relocate in the Caribbean. Justice demanded that everyone should be given the same options, regardless of their income.

We were committed to ensuring there was a viable settlement in the north of Montserrat. Since July 1995, when the volcano first started erupting, we had worked hard to set up a complete infrastructure in the north, where none had existed. This meant water, electricity, houses and a jetty, so that contact with other islands could continue. But it was inevitable that with such

When Montserrat handed me its shopping list

low numbers and so much of the island badly damaged, life opportunities would be limited. I thought it right that each family should be able to decide what was best for them.

This is where the problem began. When Liz Symons — a junior Foreign Office Minister — visited the island, the Government of Montserrat wanted major developments in the north: housing, a hospital, an airport, roads, a helicopter service and no help for anyone to leave. It was reported that the Government was concerned that if any people left, the community would not be viable. I said then, and have held the view ever since, that it is wrong to trap people on the island. They must be able to make their own choices.

It was finally agreed that we would mount a consultation exercise. We would put forward some options to the people: basic facilities that could be provided on the island, help with fares to Britain and a resettlement grant to relocate in the Caribbean. Then we would ask individuals which

choice they preferred and put in hand suitable arrangements to exercise their choice. Air fares would be paid for those who could not afford them. Those staying in the Caribbean would be given six months wages to help them to settle. Arrivals in the UK would have access to the benefits system. That appeared, and appears, to me to be fair.

About three weeks ago, the Government of Montserrat came to Britain for talks. The delegation included the new Chief Minister. They brought a shopping list which included more houses, a new hospital, a new airport, helicopter service, roads and a transport system in the north, a restitution fund for uninsured assets and support for financial services. They did not like the proposed consultation. They asked for it to be delayed. I pointed out that there were limits to the money available.

It is wrong to trap people — they must be able to make choices

I reminded them that the budget exists to assist the poorest people in the world; that £40 million had already been pledged over the past two years and more was needed; that we had to account to British taxpayers and the Public Accounts Committee for our expenditure.

Then, on August 16, the scientific advice changed. The scientists decided that the volcano was less stable than they thought. The centre of the island had to be evacuated. This meant that the north was more overcrowded, many people had been relocated twice and morale was very low.

The Government of Montserrat agreed to a voluntary evacuation. We moved quickly to get agreement across Whitehall to pay air fares to Britain. Then our problems really started to get serious. The Chief Minister was ousted on the grounds that he had not been

tough enough with Britain. The rhetoric changed and people in Montserrat were increasingly confused about what Britain was doing.

It was put about that Montserratians could expect £25,000 for a family of four as compensation. In the face of a worse emergency, people started to return to Montserrat from neighbouring islands to collect the money. The new Chief Minister claimed we were trying to force people to leave Montserrat — which he must have known was untrue. The demand for more spending escalated.

It is time now for everything to calm down and the 5,000 people who remain on Montserrat to be given the facts about what is on offer. We are committed to spending £40 million on developing the north, and the relocation package costs £10.5 million. On top of that, social security costs in Britain could be high and we have to provide some support to Antigua for education and health facilities. I am left wondering what those

impressive, dignified people at the church service in Ladywood think about all this. No one can predict what the future holds for their community and their culture. But they can be given a chance to rebuild their lives. To stay on Montserrat, to move to another part of the Caribbean, or to come to the UK. The choice is theirs, and their decision won't have to depend on the size of their bank balance. Close co-operation has been required across Whitehall since the emergency began. Officials from all the departments who need to work together are meeting this morning to carry on that work.

The last few days have been unproductive. Politics has descended to arguments between political parties and across the Atlantic. This has got to stop. It is causing more distress and uncertainty. This isn't an occasion for party politics. Those who have something to contribute should speak up. And I sincerely hope the Chief Minister will change his mind and make my colleague George Foulkes welcome if he goes to Montserrat later this month.

Then we should all take a deep breath and remind ourselves what we are working towards: a decent future for the people of Montserrat.

The author is the Secretary for International Development

Time to clean the Windows

Anatole Kaletsky

on the curse of Bill Gates

I was enjoying a tranquil holiday in the depths of the Worcestershire countryside when the nightmare began. One of the world's richest men came to stay. He took over my house. He turned my children against me. He transformed my week of quiet relaxation in the garden into an intellectual guerrilla war.

When the delivery man arrived I did not realise that I was opening my door to a Trojan horse. As I carefully opened the cardboard and bubble-wrapped package, which contained my newly refurbished computer, I scarcely noticed the bespectacled, gawky figure who came creeping out. But my week of freedom was over. Bill Gates had arrived to make me his slave.

When I speak of slavery and invasion, I'm not complaining about the social effects of having a computer on holiday. I enjoy work and sometimes even pine for my office. To stay in touch with the world while staring at a field full of sheep is still a source of wonder and delight. What then, is my grievance against Bill Gates, the man who is generally credited with making computers cheap, universal and easy to use? Only that he has done the opposite. His company, Microsoft, has been largely responsible for keeping PC prices beyond the reach of many consumers, for ensuring that computers become obsolete within months of purchase and, worst of all, for making them so maddeningly stupid.

To explain, let me return to my holiday experience. After years of frustration with inexplicable breakdowns and losses of data caused by Windows 3.11, the operating system that made Mr Gates so hugely rich, I reluctantly decided to "upgrade" to Windows 95. This program was introduced to fix some of the problems of earlier versions of Windows and, above all, to make it universal, to give the computer the ability to cope with all new equipment the user might wish to install. Suffice to say that my first attempt to use the upgraded computer was answered with an implacable error message of the kind so familiar to all Microsoft users: "The video driver is incompatible with Windows 95." This began a debilitating guerrilla campaign to outwit Mr Gates and trick his computer into doing the job for which it was advertised, which ruined the rest of my holiday.

Let me offer some broader reflection. The progress of computer technology has been much slower than is universally claimed. Today's computer is an amazingly primitive product compared with the expectations of futurologists and science fiction writers of the 1960s. Far from being able to think or control the world, computers cannot even correct the simplest faults in their own operations. Just think of the "millennium timebomb", which will cause millions of machines to break down because they cannot work out what date comes after December 31, 1999. In fact, the computer today is at the same stage of technological pre-history as the car was in the 1920s. The owner of a Model T Ford needed to be a skilled mechanic to be sure of completing a long journey and today's computer users take the same kind of tinkering with their machines for granted. But if a company in the 1990s made a car as prone to breakdowns and glitches as every Microsoft computer, it would instantly go out of business.

The most recent advances of computer technology have added little to productive growth. The basic applications of PCs — word processing and spreadsheet analysis — work no better than they did ten years ago, and are certainly not enhanced by the presence of graphics, animations and computer games. The use of computers and communication has made great strides, but this has been due to the Internet, one part of the business which was, until recently, beyond the influence of Microsoft.

The final technological disappointment has been over price. Despite sensational reductions in manufacturing costs, the typical PC today retails from between £1,000 and £2,000, not very different from the price five years ago. The industry claims, of course, that today's computer is infinitely more powerful. But what has been gained from this additional power? Instead of helping consumers, the constant "advances" have made old computers obsolete, forcing money to be spent on new models. Changing standards have prevented improvements in reliability. Above all, they have stopped the cut-throat price competition that inevitably breaks out when a technology becomes "mature".

In all these respects, the computer industry today resembles the motor industry before the 1970s. Like General Motors, Microsoft uses planned obsolescence to persuade customers that they need ever more powerful models with more glibly gadgets, regardless of their reliability, usefulness and price. But will Microsoft eventually suffer the fate of GM at the hands of the Japanese? In theory, it should be easy to build a reliable and functional computer and to sell it for a fraction of today's prices. But will this ever happen?

The American poet, Emerson, said that if a man built a better mousetrap, the world would beat a path to his door. But Thomas Gresham, the 17th-century English economist, argued that in competitive markets, "bad money drives out the good". So far, the history of personal computers suggests that the English cynic may have been right.

Invincible in its innocence

Even the random killing of a child can't rob Happisburgh of its essential decency

Thomas Marshall is dead at 12 years old, and Happisburgh mourns. The best hope now is for detection and justice; meanwhile the shock reverberates outward to the rest of our region and the nation. At the end of a scorching summer when country children happily ran wild, we feel suddenly unsafe. A parish councillor expressed it as a loss of innocence. "This is the sort of place where people still do not lock their doors. Children up to now have always ridden around carefree on bikes. Since Thomas's body was found, I have not seen a child alone on a bike. I don't know if it is ever going to be the same here again."

It will, it must be. After the manhunt, after a time of shock, the village will follow countless other communities down the centuries, look at itself and find that the important things have not changed. Innocence — if that is the right word for a trusting, tolerant community spirit — is not stolen so easily. To say that is not to belittle the irreplaceable loss of the boy; rather the contrary, because it affirms that the freedom he lived with was not rash or dangerous, but normal. Just as the children of Dunblane still go to school, sing at assembly and learn to believe in the general goodwill of human beings, so the Norfolk children will ride free again on their bikes. They must.

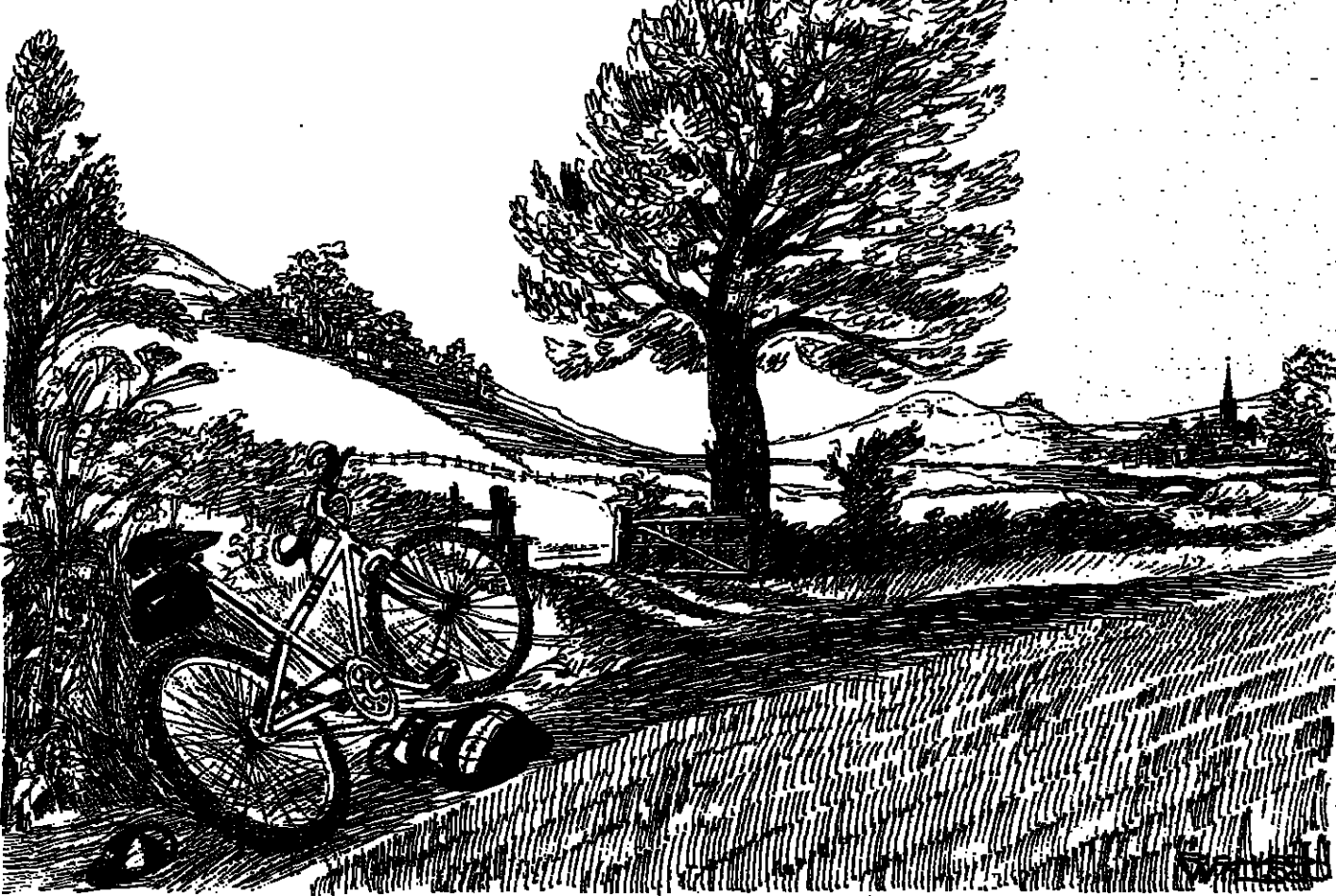
We other parents also have to discipline our worst imaginations, and hold on to the fact that the world is not in fact full of predatory strangers just waiting for the slightest flaw in our security arrangements. There are a very few men who are very dangerous. It is their freedom, not the children's, which has to be removed. Forever, if necessary. But for the most part, children of a responsible age can move through their local world in safety. It is madness to let such awful crime, each dead child's school photo in a hundred newspapers, blind us to the facts of real life. The crime most commonly committed against children in Britain is bicycle theft. The violence most commonly

done to them happens within bad families, or as a result of some obviously dangerous style of life chosen by their parents — such as living with a drug dealer, or a succession of casual, drunken lovers.

Attack on a child by a stranger is very rare indeed and always was. Over two decades to 1985 Home Office figures show that murders of under-16s by "stranger killers" averaged less than seven a year. Nor is there an upward trend, whatever media coverage may suggest. Abduction is still, as near as I can work out, less than a 20,000:1 chance (and because of the way figures are compiled, that includes snatchings by estranged parents).

Yet when the rare horror happens, we seem unable merely to offer the decent human response — tears of sympathy, prayers for the family involved and a hope for justice. Instead we morbidly seize and colonise the disaster, and use it to curtail our own children's liberty until we are chaperoning strapping great 13-year-old boys to the sports centre and inculcating every child with the idea that someone is out to get them and will pounce if they make one false move.

The Home Office figures are collected by a group called "Families for Freedom" under the banner "The Kids are All Right". Some of their conclusions seem a touch gung-ho, even to me, but they do a good service by flaunting statistics in the face of parental paranoia. Of course there are sensible precautions: it is not unreasonable to give children safety rules, to want them indoors after dark, to prevent little girls with no street sense parading around town centres with bare midriffs, and to insist on knowing which particular shopping precinct your teenage offspring plan to infest that day on their Rollerblades. It is not paranoid to be aware that funfairs and caravan parks attract prowlers, or to report oddballs haunting the school gates. It is not unreasonable of communities to demand a pedestrian police presence, so that children in doubt have somebody



to approach. Nobody applauds those families where small children are given no supervision at all; but even then, there is far more risk of these neglected sink-estate wanderers committing crimes than suffering them. Even runaways often come home safe.

Yet when Kildaspire in 1993, and Barnardo's in 1995, surveyed parents, they both found that the biggest single fear is the predatory stranger. A consensus grows up among nervous parents that all supervision is "good" and "responsible", and that you are doing your child a favour by constant chaperonage. The media gleefully bolster this fear: every time a child is abducted or killed the reporting gives the impression that it is typical of "Britain today". Then the sport of victim-blaming is given free rein, as parents scan the papers for any sign that it couldn't possibly have happened to their child. However rare the crime, we search for someone to blame other than the killer. "Oh, we definitely wouldn't have left a child alone in a caravan, even for ten minutes. Or sent him to the village shop at

6pm. We would never have turned our backs while he was on the dogdodgers. Or allowed camping in a garden. Or sent them to a school with no security grilles."

So it goes on, becoming increasingly irrational as we respond to each one-off crime as if it were a proven trend. Anybody who challenges the general paranoia risks contempt. Families for Freedom will not be applauded for condemning the school security industry with the true but brutal observation that "Thomas Hamilton was unique, and he is now dead". I myself wrote a novel in which a boy of 12 runs away from home, sleeps in a barn and by chance finds shelter, tolerance and something which transforms his life and mends his family. A press interviewer upbraided me, saying that it would be "more likely" for him to be attacked and murdered by an opportunist paedophile. Wrong: it would not be "more likely", just more media-fashionable, better grip to a fictional mill which survives (as I was grumbling in these pages only the other week) largely on the morbid.

Luckily, a week or two later came the true story of the Midlands schoolgirl who ran away and was taken in by a kind family who looked after her until she agreed to reveal her name.

Children die, and sometimes it is preventable. They die in road traffic accidents, from drugs, by drowning, in racial attacks or gang fights or at the hands of unfeeling parents or irresponsible professionals. These are all things about which something can be done. But they also die from rare disasters: freak mishaps in school games, unsuspected allergies or, rarest of all, murder by a stranger. We cannot minimise each individual loss, but if we do not keep general hysteria at bay then the lives of the remaining children will be blighted by confinement and fear.

Nor do public companies help much. A correspondent, Mr Sullivan, informed me this week that his holiday plans to send two children, aged eight and 13, to their cousin's very dourly on booked seats aboard a National Express coach was foiled. Since December, the company has a policy of

allowing no unaccompanied children under 16. He compares his own seven-year-old thrill at travelling in the guard's van, asks how long before the privatised railways pull the same stunt, and laments the "enforced infantilisation" of growing children.

He has a point. Denying them a gentle, natural progress into independence can only result in the sudden appearance of incompetence, and therefore unsafe, young adults. If you want a really weird thought, reflect that we may soon have a situation where a boy of 15 years 11 months is not considered robust enough to sit on a coach by himself, but a month later can consent to having homosexual intercourse.

Happisburgh suffers, and mourns, as other places have. It did nothing wrong or rash in letting its children run free, and no one murderer can steal its "innocence". Innocence is not that fragile. It is not ignorance or inexperience, but a great and cherishable strength. The shock will fade. Freedom will return.

Party time

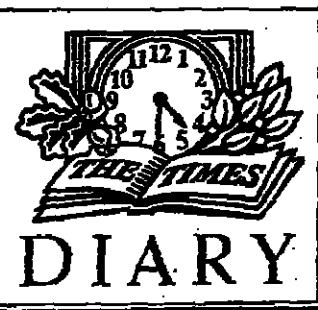
THE political world is bracing itself for the grand finale of all birthday celebrations. Lord Healey is 80 on Saturday and the occasion is to be marked with the party of the year.

Or rather the four parties of the year. For this landmark is to be the focus of fuss similar to that which accompanied Sir Edward Heath's 80th last year, when weeks of

events included dinners at the Savoy and No 10.

The former Labour Chancellor has already enjoyed a bash thrown by Labour activists in Sussex. This weekend there will be a party at his home, where he will serve his speciality, an "enormous" seafood platter, to family and close friends. Then, on September 8, former Prime Ministers Lord Callaghan of Cardiff and his Oxford pal, Sir Edward, will be joined by Tony Blair and the Chancellor Gordon Brown for a champagne hooty at the House of Lords. Even Lord Howe of Aberavon, whose attacks were once likened by Healey to being savaged by a dead sheep, is invited. "Everybody I can get together from throughout my life will be there," says the voice beneath the eyebrows. "We will be drinking champagne, of course."

But the festivities won't end there. The hottest nicker at the Brighton party conference in October is to be a banquet in his honour. "It's going to be like Ted's birthday and go on for months. People just keep on arranging



things," says Healey, who has been dining and in "sprightly form." "I'm full of beans."

High jinks

THE Culture Secretary, Chris Smith, has received more flak than most of his Cabinet colleagues in the past few months. But his performance in the Lake District over the weekend suggests that the trials of the Millennium Dome and lottery bosses have not crushed his spirit. A Wordsworth scholar, he was at Grasmere to address a function at the Wordsworth Museum. He rose at dawn and with a friend rased up and down Helvellyn before eleven. On competing their descent, his companion

found he had lost his car keys. Some miles from Grasmere, and with the time of the speech fast approaching, initiative was required.

Other vehicles were few and far between, but eventually Smith flagged down a milk float and, after some disbelieving looks, the young woman driver agreed to take him to Grasmere, where he arrived moments before he was due at the microphone.



Destined to remain forever unread is the second part of the memoirs of Sir Nicholas Fairbairn, the late Conservative MP. His widow, Lady Fairbairn, has deemed them too vindictive for publication. His victims are believed to include the former Prime Minister, John Major, whom he once described as a ventriloquist's dummy. "He was vindictive about everyone, both professionally and personally," says Lady Fairbairn. "He wanted them to be published but I don't want our friends to read nasty things about themselves. There were no affairs or anything like that, just bitterness."

Pas de deux

TALK of a wedding may be premature but Diana, Princess of Wales, and fellow serial cruiser Dodi Fayed are marrying their interests. One of the causes to which the Princess is most devoted is that of the English National Ballet, of which she is patron (once sat with her when she popped in on a rehearsal and she was giggling like a schoolgirl with the ballerinas when they took a break). Now a new production of the Nutcracker

is being prepared to open the company's first winter season at the Coliseum with a gala performance in front of the Princess in December, after a regional tour. Derek Deane, the artistic director, has been gushing that such an exciting show has been made possible only by securing generous sponsorship from Harrods.

Pincer move

EVEN in his home Peter Mandelson is not safe from the Chinese mitten crab, to which he was so unkindly likened by John Prescott. The Notting Hill Carnival procession passed within yards of his door yesterday, led by the Mangrove Steel Band, a group of ten Afro-Caribbean singers who have taken part for the past 15 years.

This year, they each wore eight red cardboard-claws, crustacean masks and bodysuits made of pink shells. "They were unmistakably crabs, and one of the loudest groups. It was all rather aggressive," says an onlooker. Sadly, Mr Mandelson was understood to have scuttled off on a holiday to New England.

P-H-S



Party animal: Lord Healey



LABOUR PAINS

Blair has much to do if momentum is to be restored

The Prime Minister returns to his desk today with a portfolio of problems and one consolation: the past month has proved how much more his party needs Tony Blair than he needs it. In his absence, inexperienced ministers have been forced to handle the hitherto pristine garments and rumblings of internal dissent have grown louder. With Mr Blair's return should come a restoration of authority. Already there are signs of a pull at the helm with the establishment of a taskforce needed to pull the Government's policy on Montserrat back from the crater's rim.

Mr Blair has steered his party out of summer doldrums before by bold leadership. It will not, however, be as easy to renew momentum as it was in Opposition. Careful strategic thought must temper reforming zeal.

Labour's most pressing problem is devolution. Although measures of opinion in Scotland and Wales suggest that the Government will win the referendums, the "yes, yes" campaign north of the border has been damaged by the publicity surrounding scandals in Paisley and Glasgow as well as the cogent scepticism of business leaders. Government confidence would be undermined by anything other than a healthy turnout with strong support both for the principle of a Scottish parliament and for the proposal to give it tax-varying powers. Many Scots voters, however, who broadly support the Government may have concerns about a devolution scheme which is backed so enthusiastically by old Labour elements and the separatist Scottish National Party. If Mr Blair is to establish an Edinburgh parliament in the right spirit he will have to campaign for it explicitly as the first stage in a broader process of decentralisation designed to secure the Union. Labour politicians who have courted nationalists with *Braveheart* rhetoric are wielding a claymore which will be turned against them in the future.

The other new Labour project where hype could turn to hubris is the Millennium Experience. The Dome, designed to convey a sense of renewal and purpose, has become an arena for competing egos. Properly executed and imaginatively sold, the Millennium Experience could apt as a showcase for a self-confident modern Britain but it needs Mr Blair's attention. The Prime Minister should give the British people a greater sense of ownership over the project. A sceptical country is yet to be persuaded of the Dome's merits.

The Dome is far from the only area where ministers have been maladroit this summer. The Trade Secretary, Margaret Beckett, was wrong-footed in her handling of Lord Simon of Highbury's shares, the Culture Secretary Chris Smith fumbled the announcement of a new academy for sport, and the International Development Secretary, Clare Short, has again shown that a safe pair of hands is not among her assets. In several areas a nudge from the top may be enough to restore a sense of direction but in others a forceful shove, out of office, may be required.

Before any reshuffle can be contemplated Labour ministers will have a chance to celebrate their first party conference in power for 19 years. This is the moment for Mr Blair to imbue his party with a renewed sense of purpose but there will be one, significant, obstacle to overcome. Many activists, not all on the Left, are uneasy about the *Party into Power* reforms which they fear will make Labour less democratic, giving members a vote but denying them a say. If Mr Blair is to maintain enthusiasm throughout the coalition that brought him to power he must show the broader membership how Labour can remain participatory and pluralist. The euphoria which greeted Labour's election was never going to last but it is not to sour prematurely, voters will need soon to be reminded of the qualities of leadership, inclusiveness and vision which led them to invest their hopes in Mr Blair.

SINS OF THE FATHERS

An understandable but disquieting German verdict

Convicted on three counts of manslaughter, the former East German leader Egon Krenz was yesterday sentenced to 6½ years in prison for the deaths of three Germans, killed as they tried to escape across the Berlin Wall. The verdict, which satisfies the majority of Germans, as a rendering of posthumous justice to the victims of a vicious Communist dictatorship, Herr Krenz argues otherwise, protesting that to hold him personally guilty for these deaths is an act of political retribution, of "victors' justice".

Thus, it may be retorted, argued some Nazi leaders at Nuremberg. There are also unsavoury echoes of Nuremberg in Herr Krenz's contention during his trial that Moscow, rather than East Germany, should be held responsible both for the Berlin Wall and for the shoot-to-kill orders issued to East German border guards. He has changed his tune since 1990, shortly after his fall from power, when he claimed that the building of the Wall in 1961 was a legitimate measure, preventing the flight of people and money from a political regime that he defends to this day as a noble socialist experiment. To have thought like that is to forfeit sympathy. Crossing that frontier of electrified wire, watch-towers, minefields, dogs, mantraps and death squads, 263 people died, some of them left screaming to bleed to death; hundreds more were maimed. And yet both trial and verdict leave a sense of unease.

Herr Krenz and his two co-defendants fired no shots. They have been found individually guilty solely because, as members of the Politburo at the time, responsibility for the shoot-to-kill policy is deemed to rest with them. That is true in the sense that, although the prosecution accepts that the order was

probably never written down, it was hardly secret. The guards, many of whom have been tried although few have actually been jailed, acted as the State intended.

But it was not Herr Krenz but Erich Honecker, for 18 years the leader of East Germany, who was the architect of the policy. His young disciple, Herr Krenz, joined the Politburo only after the rules were eased in 1983. Of the 263, 259 had already met their deaths. None was shot during the tumultuous seven weeks in 1989, when he wrested power from Herr Honecker to become head of state; and it was Herr Krenz who, on November 9, ordered the opening of the Wall. Confronted as he was by millions of demonstrators, he may have calculated that this was the way to save the regime; but whatever his motives, the result was the peaceful unification of Germany.

The case against Herr Honecker was dismissed because he was mortally ill. His security chief, Erich Mielke, was convicted of killing two policemen in the 1930s but never tried for the shootings at the Wall. Although Herr Krenz's insistence that he "never ordered killings, or even tolerated them" has to be set against his lifelong devotion to a vicious regime, he can lay some claim to have been a reformer within the party machine. To a disquieting extent, this exemplary sentence, harsher than that against his co-defendants, punishes crimes instigated by a more ruthless generation.

The trial judge, Josef Hoch, told the court that it is an illusion to believe that the past can be dealt with solely through the criminal law. Germans who hope that this verdict closes the last hideous chapter in their history should reflect upon the judge's words.

BONDI'S FORMULA

Fewer scientists could make for better science

The 1980s were a hard decade for the professions, tipping away the comfort blanket and allowing the draught of competition to whistle uncomfortably keenly. Few places proved draughtier than university research laboratories, where the certainties of tenure ceased to exist for most younger scientists. Today research is done by people for whom a lectureship is a distant and unrealistic prospect. They exist from contract to contract, never sure where the next grant is coming from. Yet such is the lure of the laboratory, that far from discouraging applicants, hardships appear to have redoubled their zeal.

The result is a system riddled with insecurity and inefficiency, as Sir Hermann Bondi, a former Master of Churchill College, Cambridge, has pointed out. Such is the imbalance between supply, in the form of research grants, and demand, in the form of grant applications, that a complex bureaucracy has evolved to try to preserve equity. Endless hours are spent by innumerable scientists on countless advisory committees in order, at the end of the day, to disappoint most applicants. Add to this the notorious tendency of most committees to pass over the daring or the unconventional, and you have a recipe for stagnation.

That, says Sir Hermann in a letter to *Nature*, is exactly what faces British science unless supply and demand can be brought back more nearly into balance. His recipe is

refreshing, though it is unlikely to win him plaudits in the laboratories. What Britain needs, he believes, is about half as many university scientists as it has today. He does not believe that the alternative — twice as much money — has the slightest chance of being achieved, and in this he is being no more than a realist.

How the cut in numbers could be made Sir Hermann does not know, though he says that it is unlikely to be quick, painless, or even fair. The market solution would be to leave things as they are, and hope that the disappointments of this generation will convince the next that academic research is not the only way to use a qualification in science. But that has never discouraged would-be actors, who outnumber by far the roles available. The difference is that casting directors make no claim to equity, while actors accept that their careers are a lottery, neither of which is true of science. The pressure to provide research grants to individuals has allowed laboratories to decay, introducing yet further inefficiency.

Traditionally, the cry has been for more science, more money, more research. Yet the true glories of British science date from a period when there was much less of everything, especially money. Scientists would do well to consider carefully what Sir Hermann has said and ask if it is not time to cut their coat to suit their cloth. It might be healthier, as well as more productive.

Deprivation in top security prisons

From Mr D. R. Sargeant

Sir, Sir Donald Acheson, the former Chief Medical Officer, recently drew attention to the fact that prisoners in special secure units (SSUs) and their families are deprived of the right to touch each other, sometimes for years on end, and to the consequential psychiatric damage to all concerned (report, February 11).

The justification for this level of security is generally stated to be the fact that the prisoner concerned (who is usually a member of the IRA) is "part of a well resourced criminal organisation with the means to mount an armed escape attempt, however unlikely that may be".

IRA prisoners have in the past mounted such attempts, successful and unsuccessful. However, it seems that the Home Office has now decided that such prisoners are no longer the risk that they were only last weekend perceived to be (report, August 20).

Where does this leave the remaining SSU prisoners? Many never posed any such danger, and it seems to me, from my experience over the years as lawyer to a non-IRA prisoner held in an SSU, the SSU system is simply used as an additional means of control and punishment.

The evidence for this lies in the number of prisoners who go to a unit for a short "stay" and then return to the mainstream prison system. There are, however, a few who have to suffer the conditions and deprivations for years and are never told why they have qualified for an SSU.

There are now fewer than ten non-IRA prisoners in the country's two remaining SSUs (Whitemoore and Belmarsh), which are being maintained at enormous expense in terms of money and resources. Can the prison system really not cope with ten out of 60,000 prisoners without making such extreme special arrangements for them?

The SSUs were largely devised for IRA prisoners who, it seems, no longer require them. Has not the time come to close the units down and to restore, for a very small number of men, an element of humanity?

Yours faithfully,
D. R. SARGEANT,
1 Farleigh Dean Crescent,
Croydon, Surrey,
August 20.

'Pampered' prisoners

From Miss Ann Widdecombe, MP for Maidstone and the Weald (Conservative)

Sir, Those members of the Labour Left who seek a return to the old ways need look no further than last weekend's reports that the Home Secretary has not only decided that prisoners should be allowed the luxury of television sets in their cells but that the taxpayer should subsidise them.

Despite all his tough talk before the election, it looks as if one of the first of Jack Straw's measures in the world of prisons will be to pamper the inmates with money that could be better used elsewhere in a hard-pressed service. Despite the decision of the previous Government not to allow television in cells and to phase them out over time we always acknowledged that such a facility, if used as an incentive, could contribute to the maintenance of order and discipline. However, it was always the case that where television was still allowed in cells prisoners were expected to meet the cost in the same way in which they met the cost of radios and other non-essential but useful items.

It speaks volumes for the priorities of this Government if taxpayers' money is to be spent on providing prisoners with televisions at the same time as turning old people out of hospital beds.

Early reassurance from Jack Straw that the speculation is unfounded would be welcome news to the many victims of those we detain in our jails and to victim support schemes which could use the money to better effect.

Yours faithfully,
ANN WIDDECOMBE,
House of Commons,
August 20.

Olives for peasants

From Mr S. E. Scammell

Sir, Your report today headed "Minister named in olives-for-peasants inquiry" indicates a surprising ignorance on the part of those who criticise Mr Geoffrey Robinson, the Paymaster General, in the management of his Tuscan estate.

The system by which the farmer provides his labour and the owner takes a share of the crop in lieu of rent has been in common use in France and Italy for centuries. It is *metayage* or *metairie*.

If, as seems to be the case, Mr Robinson is receiving less than half of the crop then the local labour force is evidently doing very well out of it.

Yours faithfully,
S. E. SCAMMELL,
Clouds Estate Office,
East Knoyle, Salisbury, Wiltshire,
August 18.

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e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Charging motorists true travel costs

From Mr Graham Nalty

Sir, The point raised by Mrs C. M. Potter (letter, August 18; see also letters, August 21) is the single most important issue affecting transport. It needs to be tackled with much greater honesty by government.

Rail fares are determined in a commercial marketplace where rail companies have to make a profit after paying all their costs and the appropriate subsidy is taken into account. By contrast the cost of making a car journey is the price of fuel plus a tax on fuel which bears very little relation to the actual cost of providing roads.

The answer is to determine and collect the tax charged on motor vehicle fuel on a commercial basis, in a manner comparable to Railtrack's charges to railway operators.

The road-charging organisation, "Roadtrack" (whether a company or government agency), would pay not only for all current government/local authority expenditure on roads but also provide its shareholders with a proper commercial return on the asset value of the whole road network.

The costs of accidents on rail are included in rail fares. Road accidents costs are spread over annually funded NHS costs, police and court costs. Until the full costs of road accidents are charged by journey, we are subsidising people to use the more dangerous form of transport. "Roadtrack" would meet all these costs from money collected through the fuel tax.

It would also be responsible for all environmental obligations of road traffic. Until a means is established of charging all road users the true and

proper costs of providing roads for their journeys, we shall simply continue to subsidise private motoring at the expense of public transport. And the congestion can only get worse.

Yours sincerely,
GRAHAM NALTY,
6 Mill Close,
Borrowash, Derbyshire,
August 21.

From Mr C. Hunt Cooke

Sir, I think that actually Mrs Potter is right and Dr D. H. Sharp (letter, August 21) is wrong. Assuming that Mrs Potter is going to run a car anyway, and is not buying one solely to travel to Guildford, many of the costs incurred are fixed and are largely independent of mileage covered. In considering whether to use her car for any particular journey, Mrs Potter is therefore quite right to look only at the marginal cost.

The point which many campaigners for public transport miss is that public transport is never going to be suitable for all journeys. Once people have a car for some purposes, it is often easier and cheaper for them to use it on journeys for which public transport is readily available.

When, like Dr Sharp, I receive a mileage allowance, I count myself fortunate that it includes a contribution towards the fixed costs which I would have had to pay in any event. I do not choose to question the logic of this too closely.

Yours faithfully,
C. HUNT COOKE,
15 Mardley Dell,
Welwyn, Hertfordshire,
August 21.

Transport solutions

From Mr Robert MacLachlan

Sir, The Government is rightly looking to reduce the never-ending increase of traffic on our roads (report, August 22). There is one area where immediate action could be taken.

At the moment, if employers try to encourage employees to come to work by public transport by paying for their season ticket the inspector of taxes promptly taxes this as a benefit. This is a major disincentive, and why many employees choose to use a car.

I believe that if employers were encouraged to purchase season tickets for their employees, as a tax-free benefit, the financial incentive to use public transport would be strong.

Yours etc,
ROBERT MACLACHLAN,
Southfields,
Milbourne, Malmesbury, Wiltshire.

From Mr A. W. N. Probert

Sir, A study conducted by this institute here at Cambridge, spread over three years, is showing that the service provided by even a perfect bus system is not the equivalent of that provided by an average private car.

The irony of our research is that we are using quite sophisticated techniques to point out the self-evident that a public transport journey does not match a car journey in terms of safety, dignity, convenience, time, comfort, enjoyment, weather protection, the ability to carry shopping and children from door-to-door, and so on.

Car use can be reduced in part by lowering transport demand, for instance by encouraging people's home,

work and activities to be physically closer together, but also by radically changing the form of public transport so that it meets the real demands of the travelling public. At the moment, using public transport is like using an old computer — good in its day and still working now, but it only does part of the job you want it to do and does it rather slowly.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW PROBERT,
The Judge Institute of Management,
University of Cambridge,
Trumpington Street, Cambridge,
August 24.

From the Director-General of the Confederation of Passenger Transport UK

Sir, It's no good casting an envious eye across the Channel at the rest of Europe's cheaper public transport fares ("Parisian heat is just the ticket for tourists", report, August 22). Almost half (44 per cent) of Paris's fares are subsidised, 70 per cent of Amsterdam's, and 89 per cent of Moscow's. In the UK the average is just 11 per cent. It is a simple equation — subsidised fares equal higher taxes.

If the Government wants to keep fares low, and still wants operators to continue their massive investment in new vehicles, an immediate solution would be to restore full fuel duty rebate now.

Yours faithfully,
VERONICA PALMER,
Director-General, Confederation of Passenger Transport UK,
Imperial House,
15-19 Kingsway, WC2,
August 23.

invested in British-invented products.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN L. ANDREWS,
Ravenswood, Palmers Lane,
Burghfield Common, Berkshire.
johnlandrews@compuserve.com

From Dr R. W. Allison

Sir, The enormous income of London's solicitors will come as no surprise to your readers, least of all to any who have had to pay for their services. It is interesting that Mr Pugh Thomas measures his profession's value to society purely in terms of fee income.

This merely emphasises Dr Wise's original point, which was that society overvalues the "leading" professions at the expense of professional engineers, without whom none of the machinery and infrastructure so vital for civilised life would exist.

Yours faithfully,
R. W. ALLISON (Chartered civil and structural engineer),
47 Proctors Way,
Bishops Stortford, Hertfordshire,
August 20.

From Mr Philip Wake

Sir, At my then small public school we got for breakfast one quarter only of a slice of white loaf deep fried and a bit of bacon, barely enough to cover it. I see the moral now. On the last day of term I shoved it into an envelope.

At home after a long, hungry journey, full of indignation I produced this meagre sample of school fare, expecting much sympathy and promise of a stern protest letter to the Headmaster. But my Mother only remarked, "Well, I can only say you look very well on it, dear", and gave it to the dog who gulped it down in one. Life was not fair in 1934.

Yours sincerely,
PHILIP WAKE,
Whitstone Cleave,
Lee, Ilfracombe, Devon,
August 18.

Family life and the politician's wife

From Dr Margaret Cook

Sir, I should like to thank Libby Purves for her article, "Mrs Cook's home truth" (August 19), which amplified the problems of the high-flying family.

Her last paragraphs, however, needed me. The children of busy professional people do not need to suffer as she describes and ours certainly did not. It is not necessary for the working life to take over one's total existence. It is perfectly possible to keep the home free of overflow work stress and to organise domestic help in such a way as to free up your own time for the children. This requires a good income, of course, and also a necessity to forego certain aspects of career advancement and of leisure life.

Virtue does have its own reward. Does any woman know a greater delight and solace than two excellent sons?

I am grateful that the excessive pressure of working in the NHS only began with the advent of the business-style health service in the Nineties, by which time my sons were university students. I should also be very glad that our marriage did not fall apart until they had become working men.

And, yes, I have to admit that my husband did have some input into their upbringing; less than mine, but it was there.

Perhaps one of my recuperative tasks will be to analyse and advise on this most important aspect of modern family life.

Yours etc,
MARGARET COOK,
The Mill,
Oak Lane, Edinburgh 12,
August 24.

Bernini and the Pope

From Mrs Elizabeth Newlands

Sir, Richard Owen's report from Rome today on the damage to Bernini's Four Rivers fountain makes the point that Bernini was "on bad terms" with the Pope (Innocent X). This prompts recollection of the story concerning the commission for the fountain.

Bernini was indeed out of favour, having been greatly patronised by the previous Pope, and was conspicuously absent from the fountain. However, his designs for the fountain, which his friend Prince Ludovisi infiltrated Bernini's model into a papal room where it was acclaimed by Innocent as so outstanding, despite its authorship, that it had to be commissioned.

This return to favour also produced the great portrait bust of Innocent in the Doria-Pamphili collection, which was much admired on its visit to London in 1996.

Yours faithfully,
ELIZABETH NEWLANDS,
3 Newington Green Road, N1,
August 21.

Tills apart

From Mr P. M. Barman

Sir, My mother-in-law, who lives in Renfrewshire, visits us a couple of times a year and likes to take with her English rather than Scottish currency. On her most recent visit, early this month, she was asked by the Bank of Scotland to draw English money from the foreign currency desk.

Will it be passports next?
Yours faithfully,
P. M. BARMAN,
Westfield House,
Barton-on-Humber, Lincolnshire,
August 24.

Sporting psalm

From Mrs Anne Hichens

Sir, I am convinced that Dr Ian Olsson (letter, August 22; see also letters, July 25, August 1, 11, 15) is mistaken. The "chase" in which the overheated hart is panting in the hymn is a hunt, not a deer forest.

Who or what is ever "overheated" in Scotland, let alone in a forest?
Yours,
ANNE HICHENS,
Radost Bridge Farm,
Bampton, Oxfordshire,
August 20.

Rats in the cistern

From Mr Peter Tanner

Sir, I was somewhat taken aback last weekend when I lifted the lid of an upstairs loo to find a fat rat trying to get out. I managed to get rid of it by flushing it away, but despite a number of calls to Thames Water I have not succeeded in getting them to take it seriously; rather they seem to consider such an occurrence normal. However, one of their representatives did telephone me eventually and said that if a rodent had succeeded in scaling the dizzy heights of the downpipe to reach an upstairs bathroom, it must have been one of their "super rats". Needless to say, I found this not particularly reassuring.

Perhaps there is a useful role here for some of those "fat cats" we hear so much about in the privatised utilities.

Yours faithfully,
PETER TANNER,
Gibbs, Impstone Road,
Pamber Heath, Hampshire,
August 24.

SOCIAL
NEWS

The Princess Royal, President, Save the Children Fund, will launch the Children in Crisis Appeal on board *HMV Britannia* in Glasgow on October 31.

Birthdays

The Duke of Gloucester celebrates his 53rd birthday today. Canon Peter Atkinson, 30m: Principal, Chichester Theological College. 35: Mr H.W. "Bunny" Austin, tennis player, 91: Dr Raphael Balcon, cardiologist, 61: Sir Kenneth Barnes, civil servant, 75: The Right Rev Alan Chesters, Bishop of Blackburn, 60: Mrs Joan Clancy, former Headmistress, North London Collegiate School, 58: Viscount Gough, 56: Mr S.T. Graham, former chairman, International Commodities Clearing House, 76: Sir Ian McGregor, FRS, expert on tropical medicine, 75: Mr David Martin, MEP, 43: Mr Malcolm Pirah, showjumper, 56: Miss Alison Steadman, actress, 51: General Sir Harry Tuzo, 80: Professor J.E. Valey, FBA, former Principal, Westfield College, 75: The Right Rev Maurice Wood, former Bishop of Norwich, 81.

Sir Robert Aitken

A service of thanksgiving for the life and work of Sir Robert Aitken, Vice-Chancellor and Principal of the University of Birmingham, 1953-1988, will be held at 3pm on Saturday, September 27, 1997, in St Francis Hall, The University of Birmingham. A memorial address will be given by Emeritus Professor Owen Wade and the service will be conducted by the Revd Andrew Garham, the University's Anglican Chaplain. All are welcome and those wishing to attend are invited to notify the Registrar and Secretary, The University of Birmingham, Edgbaston, Birmingham, B15 2TT, by September 15, 1997.

Royal Commission for the Exhibition of 1851

The following awards are announced for 1997:

Industrial Fellowships
R. Dawkins, Sowerby Research Centre, British Aerospace and University of the West of England, Robotic teamworking.
N.C. Scott, Ecomat Ltd and University of Newcastle, Application of Kalman Filtering to load management for wind power generation on weak networks.
Industrial Design Studentships
M.P. Bloomfield, University of Nottingham, Royal College of Art/Imperial College.
R.R. Gheeraw, Royal College of Art/Imperial College, Royal College of Art/Imperial College.
Miss K. Gower, Imperial College, Royal College of Art/Imperial College.
S.J. Harvey, Bath Institute of Medical Engineering, Royal College of Art/Imperial College.
R.J. House, Royal College of Art/Imperial College, Royal College of Art/Imperial College.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr A.J. Fletcher and Miss A.L. Fellingham
The engagement is announced between Adam, twin son of Mr and Mrs Nick Fletcher, of Weston Lullingfields, Shropshire, and Amanda, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Terry Fellingham, of Benworth, Hampshire.

Marriages

Mr R.E. Spicer and Miss A.J. Green
The engagement is announced between Richard, son of Mr Eric Spicer, of Michigan, USA, and Mrs Eve Wain, of Dartmouth Park, and Annabel, daughter of Mr and Mrs Stanley Green, of Forest Hill.

Marriages

Mr J.K. Bourne and Miss K.E. Robertson
A service of blessing was held at the Church of the Holy Cross, Hoggston, Buckinghamshire, after the marriage on Saturday, August 23, of Mr John Bourne, only son of the Hon Michael Bourne and of Mrs Thomas Luckock, and Miss Kate Robertson, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Robertson.

Mr S.D. Hyman and Miss G. Eisenstadt
The marriage took place on Sunday, August 24, 1997 in New York City, of Mr Spencer D. Hyman, son of Mr and Mrs Joe Hyman, of London, to Miss Gale Eisenstadt, daughter of Dr and Mrs Howard Eisenstadt, of New Jersey.

University news

The following will take up office on September 1:
Professor Graham Zellick (Principal of Queen Mary and Westfield College) as Vice-Chancellor
Professor Arthur Lucas (Principal of King's College London) as Deputy Vice-Chancellor, and
Professor Lance Lanyon (Principal of the Royal Veterinary College) as Pro-Vice-Chancellor.



Police believe this cannon, urns and a sundial found at Newark Antiques Fair were stolen from a cemetery

Graves robbed for garden ornaments

By STEWART TENDLER
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

MORE THAN 160 years since the demise of the infamous resurrectionists Burke and Hare, grave robbing is once again big business among the criminal underworld.

Throughout Britain police have reported an alarming increase in the number of thefts from cemeteries which are helping to supply a thriving industry in stolen memorials passed off as antique garden decorations.

Instead of bodies, the modern grave robber hunts for ornamental stones and memorials which are sold through the lucrative black market in stolen antiques.

One of Europe's largest cemeteries has lost six life-sized angels. A bronze eagle with an 8ft wingspan was taken from the Brompton Cemetery in London earlier this year and last week Nottinghamshire police seized 25 items at an international antiques fair including a stone cannon thought to have been taken from a war grave or the last resting place of a senior artilleryman.

Police say thieves have turned to cemeteries to supply the market in ornaments because many private gardens now have improved security measures while cemeteries have limited or no security. The raiders often specialise in older sculptures and monuments from elaborate Victorian or Edwardian graves. The families who commissioned the work are now dead and the items are not missed for some time. The loot is fed into the antiques market and often ends

up in the garden of a home on the Continent or in America.

The cannon was among a collection of stonework including urns, a sundial, a set of chains and stone posts and benches found on sale at a large international antiques fair at Newark. Police seized the items after receiving information and questioning the stallholders.

As Nottinghamshire police sent out details of their find to every force in the country, Detective Constable Austin O'Driscoll said the entire haul could have come from one cemetery. Police needed a lorry with a crane to move the items from the fair to a store; thieves would have needed lifting equipment to take the stonework.

Detective Constable O'Driscoll said the cannon could date back to the Crimean War or the First World War. The ornate sundial was worth at least £2,000. Memorial plaques had been ripped off the benches. The theft of the cannon was particularly unpleasant, he said. "Some poor man has given his life for his country and should have been laid to rest without someone stealing from his grave. They have no morals."

The Institute of Burial and Cremation Administration and the Confederation of Burial Authorities both say the thefts are a national problem. The confederation has launched a nationwide survey of its 180 members to discover the extent of thefts.

At Brookwood Cemetery, Woking, Surrey, which lost six stone angels, a spokeswoman said security on the 440-acre site is limited to traffic barriers on

the gates. Almost everything except stone crosses has been taken from among the 250,000 graves and nothing has ever been recovered, she said. The cemetery has lost birthdays and urns as well as the angels.

David Burkett, superintendent at Kensal Green Cemetery, one of London's famous Victorian burial grounds, said: "Things do walk and sometimes it is a long time before you realise it. You find things left on the back of the cemetery apparently waiting to be picked up."

At one point police found a gang of a dozen men in the grounds at midnight. Families looking after plots have also been caught stealing from other plots but Mr Burkett said his staff could not challenge everyone bending over a grave.

He said: "People buying this material would be horrified if they knew where it came from. You are talking about very expensive security which would cost the sort of money the average cemetery has not got."

At Brompton Cemetery in Central London, Murdo Macmillan, the supervisor, said granite cannon balls commemorating a series of battles had been taken from a grave last month. The £6,000 eagle was stolen from a grave some years ago. After its recovery, staff decided to keep it in a locked catacomb. The thieves cut through a chain with a mechanical cutter and probably loaded the eagle on to a vehicle. Because stonemasons call at the cemetery passers-by might not have been suspicious of a van or lorry.

Cash comes in for veterans of great volunteer army

By ALAN HAMILTON

DESPITE controversy over whether the Queen should visit the site of the Amritsar Massacre, there is a happier note to her forthcoming state visit to India to mark the country's 50th anniversary of independence.

Former British officers in the Indian Army of colonial days will shortly announce that they have raised more than £250,000 to help destitute veterans of the largest volunteer fighting force ever assembled.

They have done so in the face of a blank refusal to help from what they imagined might be two of the most likely sources of support: the National Lottery and Britain's own Indian community.

During the Second World War India answered the Allies' call with an all-volunteer army of 2.5 million men. Their contribution was vital to victory in the Far East, but they also fought in Europe and North Africa. They lost 24,000 dead, 64,000 wounded and won 4,800 awards for gallantry, including a remarkable 31 VCs.

But because they served in pre-independence days, and most of them for only the six years of the war, they received no pension, either from the British or the new Indian Government. Thousands of elderly veterans and their dependants are now living on or below the poverty line.

Members of the Indian Army Association, which represents most of the 3,000 British officers still alive, launched a modest fund seven years ago, thinking they would be lucky to raise £20,000. But their appeal has struck a chord in those British old enough to remember the war.

Funds were boosted by more than £80,000 last year after a radio appeal by Lord Weatherill, the former Speaker and himself an ex-Indian Army officer. The money still keeps gelling in, from a wide range of charitable trusts and private donations. But not from Indians.

Major Bertie Delell, talk of the First Punjab Regiment and now chairing the appeal from

retirement in Oxfordshire, said: "There was a great tradition of military service among the Indian warrior class. But the Indians in Britain are from the trader class without that tradition. Most are too young, and as a great many came here from East Africa, their connection with India is really very slight."

Using a newspaper guide to the richest people in the country, Major Delell contacted all 179 of Britain's Indian millionaires. "So far, not one of them has coughed up a penny; mostly they say 'they have other charities to support'."

The British, by contrast, are chivalrous towards their old allies: "There is still a great deal of nostalgia for India. Despite isolated incidents like Amritsar, the British are rather proud of their period in India; it was an outstanding example of our colonisation, and there is a lingering affection for it."

Because so many records were lost at the time of partition, with upwards of ten million people on the move between India and Pakistan, it is impossible to know how many wartime survivors remain in either country. But appeals for help are constant, and are channelled through local representatives of the British Commonwealth Ex-Servicemen League, the London-based charity of last resort which looks after the old soldiers of Empire.

Individual grants are usually tiny, perhaps no more than a few rupees; an emergency pension of £10 a quarter is a generous handout, but a little goes a long way in India. Alternatively, the grant may be of a second-hand sewing machine, so that a war widow can earn enough to keep herself.

Patrick Emerson, secretary of the Indian Army Association, said: "When England needed them, the Indians came to our aid. Now that they need us, we are duty-bound to help them in their final days. In 15 years' time, there will be none left, and our work will be finally done."

Latest wills

Mary Augusta, Louisa Millward, of London SW1, left estate valued at £2,552,676 net.
Barbara Marion Phillips, of Leggett Hill, Ludworth, Westmorland, left estate valued at £2,382,093 net.
Lady Black, of London SW19, left estate valued at £837,526 net.
The Dowager Lady Asquith, of Rowledge, Farnham, Surrey, left estate valued at £68,960 net.
Geoffrey Edward, Michael

Geoffrey, of Lockerly, Hampshire, left estate valued at £1,962,815 net.
The late Lord Rothermere's £5,000 each to 1000 Salvation Army and Samaritans.
Christopher Meaburn, of Chesham, Buckinghamshire, left estate valued at £1,043,002 net.
Sir William Henry Noakes, of Bredchley, Tonbridge, Kent, left estate valued at £1,667,663 net.

PERSONAL COLUMN

BMDS: 0171 680 6880
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

From inside, from the human heart, come evil thoughts, acts of fornication, theft, murder, adultery, greed and malice, fraud, indecency, envy, slander, arrogance and folly, and they are what define a person. Mark 7: 21-23.

BIRTHS

ANGEL-JAMES - On August 17th in Shropshire, to Selina and David, daughter, Constance Emerald Mary, a sister for Jack and William.
BROMAGE - On August 21st, to Jacqueline and Charles, a daughter.
DARLING - On 23rd August 1997 at Haywards Heath, to Lucinda (nee Greenwood) and Patrick, a daughter, Ebbelinda Anne Auchinleck.
GOODRIDGE - On 21st August 1997, to Bridget (nee Harvey) and Paul, a daughter, Paige Augusta.
TODD - On August 24th at St Richard's Hospital, Chichester, to Susan (nee Robinson) and Christopher, a son, David James.

MARRIAGES

UNDERHAY-BUTLER - On Saturday 23rd August at Newnham College, Cambridge, of St Michael's, to Mr and Mrs P.J.G. Butler.

DEATHS

ALLSOPE - On 23rd August 1997, The Lady Nicholas, daughter of the 4th Baron Hatherston (father of the 5th, 6th and 7th Barons Hatherston), aged wife of the late Samuel Allsop, 80. Buried at St Paul's Church, London. Family flowers only please but donations to Cancer Research welcome.
ANGELL - Lewis P. Angell MBE peacefully on 22nd August at Marlborough Hospice. Devoted husband to Marion. Service at 2.15 pm 28th August at Marlborough Parish Church, Wiltshire. Donations to Christian Aid.
BARTON - Fred died peacefully 19th August aged 84. Ex Royal Indian Army Reserve. Buried at St Mary's Church, Hendon. Family flowers only please but donations to Cancer Research welcome.
BOYD - Pamela (nee Wilson) died 22nd August. Adored and beloved by all who knew her. Adored and missed forever by Richard, Anthony, Stephen and all her family. Golden Years Crematorium Tuesday 26th August 2.30 pm.

DEATHS

BENCE-SMITH-CHAMMOOR - Alban Robert died as he had lived, with great courage, determination and dignity, peacefully at home, surrounded by his family, on August 24th, aged 74. He was a loving and devoted husband, father and grandfather. He was a member of the Church of England. Buried at St Paul's Church, Hendon. Family flowers only please but donations to Cancer Research welcome.

BOOTH - On 22nd August 1997 peacefully at home in Zeals, Wiltshire, Kenneth Edward, 88, a well beloved uncle, grandfather and father-in-law. Buried at Salisbury Crematorium on Friday August 29th at 11 am. Family flowers only please but donations to Cancer Research welcome. Donations if desired to St Charles Care at Home Service may be sent to: St Charles Care at Home, 111 Gillingham, Dorset SP6 6GL, tel: (01747) 822494.

BOYD - Pamela (nee Wilson) died 22nd August. Adored and beloved by all who knew her. Adored and missed forever by Richard, Anthony, Stephen and all her family. Golden Years Crematorium Tuesday 26th August 2.30 pm.

LEGAL, PUBLIC, COMPANY & PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES

BRAGG - Michael David, Captain Royal Navy, Justice of the Peace, on August 22nd 1997, The Lady Nicholas, daughter of the 4th Baron Hatherston (father of the 5th, 6th and 7th Barons Hatherston), aged wife of the late Samuel Allsop, 80. Buried at St Paul's Church, London. Family flowers only please but donations to Cancer Research welcome.
HARDY - Mary Elizabeth (Maggie) nee Blackthorn, 71, peacefully on 23rd August 1997, after a long illness, surrounded by her family. She was a devoted wife, mother and grandmother. Buried at St Paul's Church, Hendon. Family flowers only please but donations to Cancer Research welcome.
HERON - Ruby (nee Smith) on 23rd August peacefully in Zeals, Wiltshire, daughter of the late Mr and Mrs William Heron. Buried at St Paul's Church, Hendon. Family flowers only please but donations to Cancer Research welcome.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Robert Walpole, 1st Earl of Orford, statesman, Houghton, Norfolk, 1676; Joseph Michel Mongolfier, balloonist, Annonay, France, 1740; Antoine Lavoisier, chemist, Paris, 1743; Alfred, Prince Consort, Schloss Rosenau, Germany, 1819; John Buchan, 1st Baron Tweedsmuir, Garter-Knight of Canada 1935-40, novelist, Perth, 1873;

Guillaume Apollinaire, poet, Rome, 1890; Jules Romain, writer, Chateaufort, France, 1858; Christopher Isherwood, novelist, High Lane, Cheshire, 1904.
DEATHS: Anton van Leeuwenhoek, microscopist, Delft, 1723; George Sackville, German, Lord George Sackville, 1st Viscount Sackville, soldier and politician, Buckhurst Park, Sussex, 1785; Louis Philippe, "Citizen King" of France, 1830-48; Claremont, Surrey, 1850; William James, psychologist, Chocoma, New Hampshire, 1910; Lon Chaney, film actor, Los Angeles, 1930; Frank Harris, writer, Nice, 1931; Franz Werfel, writer, Hollywood, 1945; Ralph Vaughan Williams, composer, London, 1958; Paul Muni, actor, Hollywood, 1967; Sir Francis Chichester, circumnavigator of the world, 1966-67, Plymouth, 1972.

Charles Lindbergh, first to fly solo the Atlantic non-stop 1927, Maui, 1974; Charles Boyer, actor, Phoenix, Arizona, 1978.
King Edward III, aided by his son the Black Prince, defeated the French at the Battle of Crecy, 1346.
The BBC transmitted the first high-definition television pictures from Alexandra Palace to the Olympia Radio Show, 1936.

TRADE: 0171 481 1982
FAX: 0171 481 9313

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ANY TICKET obtained, Theatre, Box, 1970. Professional and Amateur. Tel: 0171 481 4414 (City).

FOR SALE

A BIRTHDAY Newspaper, Digital, also available. Ready for presentation. Also available. Tel: 0171 481 4414 (City).

IN MEMORIAM - PRIVATE

HILL - Edward 1958. Remembered with love and gratitude.

SERVICES

PUMP PARTNERS - National Pump & Vacuum Services. Tel: 0171 481 4414 (City).

WANTED

ALL AVAIL - Phantom, Beauty, all. Tel: 0171 481 4414 (City).

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ALL AVAIL - Phantom, Beauty, all. Tel: 0171 481 4414 (City).

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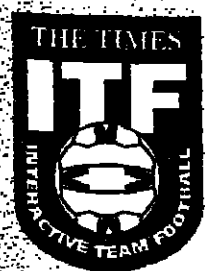
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Choose your fantasy team

HOW TO PLAY

- You have £55 million to spend on a team of 11 players and a manager.
- You must pick 1 GOALKEEPER, 2 FULL BACKS, 2 CENTRAL DEFENDERS, 4 MIDFIELD PLAYERS, 2 STRIKERS, 1 MANAGER.
- You must not exceed your budget of £55 million. You must not pick more than one individual (two players or one player and a manager) from the same club. After a real-life transfer, you find you have three players from one club in your team, you must sell one of them. No player may be picked twice.
- Players and the manager must be chosen from Interactive Team Football category lists, which include code numbers and values.
- Your players and manager will accumulate points in all 1997-98 matches in the FA Premier League, FA Cup, Bell's Scottish League Premier division and Tennents Scottish Cup from Saturday August 9 onwards.
- The team with the most points at the end of the season will win the £50,000 first prize. You may enter as many teams as you like whenever you like. Readers entering a mini-league should tick the box on the registration form.

HOW THE SCORING SYSTEM WORKS

POINTS AWARDED

- GOALKEEPER**
- Keeps clean sheet (per half)** +3 points
 - Saves goal +20 points
 - Saves penalty +1 point
- FULL BACK / CENTRAL DEFENDER**
- Keeps clean sheet* +3 points
 - Saves goal +4 points
- MIDFIELD PLAYER**
- Keeps clean sheet* +1 point
 - Saves goal +3 points
- STRIKER**
- Saves goal +2 points
- ALL PLAYERS**
- On winning side +1 point
 - Appearance† +1 point
 - Scores hat-trick +10 bonus points
- MANAGER**
- Wins +3 points
 - Draws +1 point

** Must have played a complete half in the match to earn +3 points
† Must have played for 75 minutes in the match † Must have played for 45 minutes in the match

POINTS DEDUCTED

- GOALKEEPER**
- Concedes goal -2 points
- FULL BACK / CENTRAL DEFENDER**
- Concedes goal -1 point
- ALL PLAYERS**
- Sent off -5 points
 - Booked -1 point
 - Concedes penalty -1 point
 - Misses penalty -1 point
 - Scores own goal -1 point
- MANAGER**
- Team loses -1 point

TRANSFERS

Each team entered by August 9 received 60 transfers for the season. Transfers are allocated on a weekly basis. Transfers allocated on that day will be allocated an extra 20 transfers. Transfers allocated 20 transfers for the season. Full details of transfers are available on the LineOne website.

WAYS OF ENTERING YOUR TEAM

- BY POST AND FAX** See the entry form, page 118.
- BY TELEPHONE** 0891 405 011 (UK) or +44 890 100 000 (Overseas). Select your team and follow the prompts. A full set of selections (using the 60 transfers) will be sent to you by post. You will be asked to provide a credit card number for payment of the entry fee. Transfers will be allocated on a weekly basis. Transfers allocated on that day will be allocated an extra 20 transfers. Transfers allocated 20 transfers for the season. Full details of transfers are available on the LineOne website.
- BY THE INTERNET** The game is available on the LineOne website (www.lineone.co.uk). The internet version enables you to enter the game and play for the entire season, while you access to league tables, fixture lists, player records and your team history.
- BY LINEONE** You can enter the game on LineOne. This includes all transfers and weekly updates throughout the season. For full details of the game, visit the LineOne website (www.lineone.co.uk) or call 0891 405 011. For full details of the game, visit the LineOne website (www.lineone.co.uk) or call 0891 405 011.
- BY SKY SPORTS INTERACTIVE** Play ITF with Sky Sports Interactive on 0891 770 700 (calls charged at 50p per minute). Details on Sky Sport page 118.

£100,000 WORTH OF PRIZES TO BE WON



HOW TO ENTER YOUR TEAM

See panel above left for details of how the number of transfers is expressed as the season progresses. An entry fee is required to receive a letter of confirmation and notification of your personal identification number (PIN) and team, with complete terms and conditions.

THIS SECTION TO BE COMPLETED BY ALL ENTRANTS

First Name _____
Surname _____
Address _____
Postcode _____ Daytime Tel _____
Cheque / PO No. _____

This year ITF will incorporate separate mini leagues. Please tick the correct league(s) for your entry.

☐ ITF League ☐ Women's League ☐ Student League ☐ Youth League (Under 18)

Entrants must be 18 or over to play in the ITF league, the Women's league and the Student's league. Entrants under 18 may enter the Youth league only and are not eligible for cash prizes.

Which age group are you? (tick box)

1. 18-24 ☐ 2. 25-34 ☐ 3. 35-44 ☐
4. 45-54 ☐ 5. 55-64 ☐ 6. 65+ ☐

How often do you read The Times?
Less than once a week ☐ 1-3 times a week ☐ 4-6 times a week ☐

How often do you read The Sunday Times?
Less than once a month ☐ 1-2 times a month ☐ 3-4 times a month ☐

Do you have a PC at home? Yes ☐ No ☐ If you do not wish to receive other offers from Times Newspapers, please tick box ☐

Send your entry with £2 entry fee (entrants outside the UK or Rep of Ireland £10 sterling) to: The Times Interactive Team Football, Abacus House, Dudley Street, Luton, Bedfordshire LU1 1ZZ.

FOR FAX ENTRY, FILL IN CREDIT CARD DETAILS BELOW

Fax your entry to: UK 0600 600 563
Outside UK +44 171 649 1724

Credit Card Number _____ Expiry date _____
Mastercard ☐ Visa ☐ Name on card _____
(Supply address of registered cardholder if different from above)

Signature _____ Name _____
Address _____
Postcode _____ Daytime Tel _____

* Calls cost 35p per minute

TELEPHONE NUMBER 01582 702720

THIS IS NO FANTASY

- FREE Entry to The Times Interactive Team Football 1997.
- One month's FREE membership of LineOne.
- 10 hours FREE access to LineOne's minute-by-minute football news, and the internet.

When it comes to playing The Times Interactive Team Football you can see that LineOne puts you ahead of the game. Not only does it give you all the latest results and match reports from Sky, but also all the news, commentary and analysis from The Times, The Sunday Times and the internet.

Through LineOne you can also chat to your competitors and seek the views of other football fans. You can even set up LineOne to bring you all the information about your own team as soon as it is available.

Who knows? With access to all this football information, winning the title might just become a reality.

Call for your FREE trial of LineOne and the

Internet now on 0800 111 210



*One FREE on-line entry via LineOne including all transfers. This is worth £9.

and be £50,000 champions



Every day thousands of *Times* readers are joining ITF for the new season.
Don't miss the fun — show that you can spot the best players in Britain

The new season is well under way, and so is your chance to play Interactive Team Football (ITF) in the hope of winning £50,000. Rarely has a season promised so much, with a dazzling array of international talent performing on the British stage, and the lure of the most glittering prize of all, the World Cup, at the end.

To match the excitement, ITF is back with a bigger and better game. *The Times*, in association with LineOne and Sky Sports Interactive, is offering you the chance to show your football knowledge by selecting a team from the best players in Britain — those in the FA Cup, the Premiership and the leading clubs in the Bell's Scottish League. The expert will be rewarded with a £50,000 prize for the winning team, selector plus £10,000 for the second prize and £5,000 for the team coming third. Then a further £1,000 goes to the selector of the best team of the month (plus a signed Mitre football, a Mitre sports bag and Premiership tickets).

Then there is the new FA Cup prize. Every team entered into the ITF league will auto-

atically be entered into the FA Cup league. Points scored by your players in FA Cup matches will be entered both in the main ITF league and in the special FA Cup league. The winner of the FA Cup league will be awarded £10,000.

That's not all. New this year are three special mini-leagues running concurrently with the ITF league: a Women's League, the Mitre Students League and the Dairy Crest Youth League for under-18s. The winning team in each category will win a trip for two to the World Cup in France next year. Monthly prizes of Premiership tickets, Mitre footballs signed by Stuart Pearce and Mitre sports bags will also be awarded in each league for the manager of the month.

In the *Times* ITF league, you are also pitting your selectorial skills against those in the know. With the support of the Professional Footballers' Association, Premiership players have been encouraged to enter sides of their own.

ITF CHECKLINE

You can check your position in ITF by calling 0891 884643 (outside UK 44 990 200 532).

SEVEN GOOD REASONS TO PLAY ITF

- More prize money — £100,000 worth of prizes to be won
- New FA Cup league with a prize fund of £10,000 for the winner, with automatic inclusion and no extra work or cost
- New mini-leagues for women, students and young entrants with separate monthly prizes and overall prizes of trips to the World Cup for each league winner
- 60 transfers with more flexibility for more control over your team
- Special hat-trick bonus introduced
- Revaluation of players: the value of players will go up and down through the season so, with careful selection, you can juggle your funds to buy more top names
- Easy to enter: six different ways of joining ITF (post, fax, telephone, Skytext, Internet and LineOne)



Negri: top striker



Pallister: top defender

THIS WEEK'S TRANSFERS

IN		
41-04	Danny Williamson	Everton £2.00m
50603	Peter Beardsley	Bolton Wanderers £2.00m
51904	Graham Fenton	Leicester City £2.00m

MOVED

31403	David Unsworth	West Ham United £3.00m
(from Everton)		

HOW TO MAKE A TRANSFER

- YOU MAY transfer as and when you wish according to your team transfer allowance. If a player or manager moves teams during the season, it may affect the composition of your team. You may adjust your team by using the transfer system to avoid missing out on points.
- EACH TEAM that was entered by August 9 was allocated 60 transfers for the season and each team registering after that date has its number of transfers reduced by three per week up to December 13, when all teams registered before noon that day will be allocated an extra 20 transfers. Teams registered after noon on December 13 will be allocated 25 transfers for the rest of the season.
- THE LINE is open now and will remain open for the rest of the season. You may only make transfers by using a Touch-tone (ITF) telephone (i.e. push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone). You will need ten digits for your PIN which you will have to tap in (not speak). Follow the simple instructions and tap in the live-digit codes of the players that you are transferring.
- YOU MAY make up to four transfers per call but may make as many calls as you wish to achieve the required amount of transfers.
- TRANSFERS made before 12 noon on any day will become effective for matches starting after that time. Transfers made after 12 noon will become effective for matches starting after 12 noon the following day.
- YOUR NEW player only starts to score points for you when his transfer is registered. The current score of the player transferred out remains part of your team score but he then ceases to score for you.
- CALLS COST 50p per minute and calls from a telephone box cost approximately twice as much.

Transfer number: 0891 884 628.

Outside the UK: +44 990 200 538.



Peter Beardsley of Bolton has entered the ITF list

Code	Name	Team	Cost	Week	Total
10101	J. Leighton	Aberdeen	2.00	5	5
10201	D. Seaman	Arsenal	5.00	3	18
10301	M. Bosnich	Aston Villa	3.00	2	2
10401	D. Watson	Barnsley	1.00	11	3
10501	T. Flowers	Blackburn	3.50	0	8
10601	K. Brannagan	Bolton	1.50	0	8
10701	S. Kerr	Celtic	4.00	0	8
10801	E. De Geoy	Chelsea	3.00	8	3
10901	S. Ogrizovic	Coventry City	1.50	0	0
11001	C. Nash	Crystal Palace	1.00	0	0
11002	K. Miller	Crystal Palace	2.00	8	13
11101	M. Poom	Derby County	1.50	3	5
11201	S. Dykstra	Dundee United	3.00	9	7
11301	J. Westwater	Dunfermline	1.00	3	6
11401	N. Southall	Everton	2.00	3	0
11501	G. Rounis	Hartlepool	1.50	0	3
11601	C. Reid	Hibernian	1.50	9	0
11701	D. Lekovic	Kilmarnock	1.00	7	7
11801	N. Marjyn	Leeds United	3.50	3	2
11901	K. Keller	Leicester City	2.00	7	18
12001	D. James	Liverpool	3.50	2	1
12101	P. Schmeichel	Manchester Utd	5.00	7	23
12201	S. Howie	Motherwell	1.00	0	0
12301	S. Given	Newcastle Utd	4.00	8	11
12401	A. Goram	Rangers	5.00	3	3
12501	K. Pressman	Sheffield Weds	2.50	2	6
12701	M. Taylor	Southampton	1.50	0	0
12801	A. Malik	St Johnstone	0.50	3	5
12901	T. Walker	Tottenham	3.00	8	6
12901	L. Mikosko	West Ham	2.00	0	6
13001	N. Sullivan	Wimbledon	2.50	2	4

Code	Name	Team	Cost	Week	Total
20201	L. Dixon	Arsenal	3.00	0	0
20202	N. Winterburn	Arsenal	3.00	1	6
20203	E. Pett	Arsenal	2.50	1	1
20301	S. Staunton	Aston Villa	3.00	0	0
20302	A. Wright	Aston Villa	3.00	0	3
20303	S. Grayson	Aston Villa	2.50	0	3
20304	F. Nelson	Aston Villa	2.50	0	3
20401	N. Eadian	Barnsley	0.50	6	1
20402	N. Thompson	Barnsley	0.50	0	0
20502	J. Keane	Blackburn	2.00	0	10
20503	P. Valery	Blackburn	2.00	0	9
20601	N. Cox	Bolton	2.00	2	3
20602	R. Elliot	Bolton	3.50	5	4
20701	T. Boyd	Celtic	3.50	0	0
20702	T. McKinlay	Celtic	3.00	0	1
20703	J. McNamara	Celtic	4.00	5	3
20801	G. Le Saux	Chelsea	4.00	6	4
20802	D. Petrescu	Chelsea	2.50	0	0
20803	C. Babbayaro	Coventry City	1.00	2	4
20901	D. Burrows	Coventry City	1.00	0	0
20902	S. Borrows	Coventry City	1.00	0	0
20903	M. Hall	Coventry City	1.50	5	6
21001	D. Gordon	Crystal Palace	1.50	5	6
21002	M. Edworthy	Crystal Palace	1.50	5	6
21003	K. Muscat	Crystal Palace	1.50	0	0
21101	C. Powell	Derby County	1.00	0	0
21102	D. Yates	Derby County	2.50	0	0
21401	A. Hinchcliffe	Everton	1.50	1	0
21402	E. Barrett	Everton	1.50	1	0
21403	T. Phelan	Everton	1.50	0	0
21501	G. Locke	Hartlepool	1.50	0	0
21701	D. Kerr	Kilmarnock	1.00	0	0
21801	G. Kelly	Leeds United	2.50	1	1
21802	D. Robertson	Leeds United	1.50	0	0
21901	M. Whitlow	Leicester City	1.50	4	10
21902	S. Guppy	Leicester City	4.00	0	0
22001	S. Bjornbeys	Liverpool	4.00	0	0
22101	J. McAtee	Liverpool	4.00	4	13
22102	D. Irwin	Manchester Utd	3.50	4	4
22103	G. Neville	Manchester Utd	3.50	0	9
22201	P. Neville	Manchester Utd	3.00	5	6
22301	S. Watson	Newcastle Utd	2.00	1	1
22302	W. Barton	Newcastle Utd	1.50	9	10
22303	J. Beresford	Newcastle Utd	3.00	5	6
22401	S. Pearce	Newcastle Utd	3.00	0	0
22402	A. Cleland	Rangers	3.00	1	1
22501	P. Stansaeas	Rangers	2.50	0	4
22502	I. Nolan	Sheffield Weds	2.00	0	0
22503	J. Dodd	Sheffield Weds	1.00	2	2
22701	F. Benall	Southampton	0.75	2	2
22702	S. Charlton	Southampton	0.75	0	0
22703	C. Wharton	Southampton	2.00	0	0
22801	C. Wharton	Tottenham	1.00	4	0
22802	J. Edinburgh	Tottenham	3.00	0	0
22901	J. Dicks	West Ham	1.50	0	0
22902	A. Ince	West Ham	2.00	0	0
23001	B. Thatcher	Wimbledon	2.00	0	0
23002	K. Cunningham	Wimbledon	2.00	0	0
23003	A. Kimble	Wimbledon	2.00	0	0

Code	Name	Team	Cost	Week	Total
30101	B. O'Neill	Aberdeen	2.00	0	5
30201	T. Adams	Arsenal	3.50	0	0
30202	M. Keown	Arsenal	3.50	0	0
30203	G. Grimandi	Arsenal	2.00	1	5
30301	G. Southgate	Aston Villa	3.50	1	4
30302	U. Ehlogu	Aston Villa	3.50	1	3
30401	A. De Zeeuw	Barnsley	1.00	5	1
30402	A. Moses	Barnsley	0.50	5	1
30403	M. Appleby	Barnsley	0.50	0	7
30502	C. Hendry	Blackburn	3.00	0	0
30504	S. Henschow	Blackburn	2.00	0	3
30601	G. Taggart	Bolton	1.50	2	0
30602	G. Bergesson	Bolton	1.00	1	4
30603	C. Fairclough	Bolton	1.00	0	0
30701	E. Annoni	Celtic	3.00	0	2
30702	M. MacKay	Celtic	3.00	5	0
30703	A. Stubbs	Celtic	3.00	0	0
30801	F. Leboeuf	Chelsea	3.00	0	3
30802	M. Duberry	Chelsea	3.00	0	0
30803	S. Clarke	Chelsea	2.50	5	3
30804	B. Lambourde	Chelsea	2.50	0	0
30901	L. Daleh	Coventry City	1.50	0	0
30902	R. Shaw	Coventry City	1.50	1	3
30903	P. Williams	Coventry City	1.50	2	5
31001	A. Roberts	Crystal Palace	1.50	5	8
31002	A. Linnigh	Crystal Palace	0.75	4	4
31003	D. Tuttle	Crystal Palace	0.75	4	3
31101	I. Stimate	Derby County	2.50	2	2
31102	J. Laurson	Derby County	1.50	1	1
31201	S. Pressley	Dundee United	3.00	0	0
31301	G. Shields	Dunfermline	1.50	1	2
31401	S. Bille	Everton	3.00	0	2
31402	D. Watson	Everton	2.00	0	1
31403	D. Unsworth	Everton	2.00	0	0
31501	D. Weir	Hibernian	1.50	5	4
31601	J. Hughes	Hibernian	1.50	5	4
31801	D. Wetherall	Leeds United	2.00	1	0
31802	G. Hall	Leeds United	2.00	0	1
31803	R. Molenaar	Leeds United	2.00	1	1
31804	L. Radebe	Leeds United	1.50	0	0
31901	M. Elliott	Leicester City	3.00	4	14
31902	P. Karmark	Leicester City	2.00	4	10
31903	S. Walsh	Leicester City	1.50	4	10
32001	M. Wright	Liverpool	3.00	0	1
32002	D. Matteo	Liverpool	3.00	0	1
32003	K. Varnie	Liverpool	3.00	0	0
32004	H. Berg	Manchester Utd	3.00	4	6
32101	D. Miley	Manchester Utd	3.50	4	14
32102	G. Pallister	Manchester Utd	1.50	0	0
32201	M. Van Der Gaag	Motherwell	3.00	4	5
32301	P. Albert	Newcastle Utd	3.00	0	0
32302	D. Peacock	Newcastle Utd	2.00	0	0
32303	A. Howie	Newcastle Utd	3.00	5	6
32401	S. Pott	Rangers	3.50	0	1
32402	J. Bjorklund	Rangers	3.50	0	0
32403	L. Amoroso	Sheffield Weds	2.50	0	3
32501	D. Walker	Sheffield Weds	2.50	0	0
32502	J. Newsome	Sheffield Weds	2.50	1	5
32503	P. Atherton	Sheffield Weds	1.00	0	0
32701	R. Dryden	Southampton	1.00	0	0
32702	C. Lynne	Southampton	1.00	0	0
32703	U. Van Goober	Southampton	0.50	1	4
32801	M. McCuskey	St Johnstone	3.00	0	2
32802	S. Campbell	Tottenham	2.50	5	4
32803	J. Scalls	Tottenham	2.00	0	4
32804	R. Vega	Tottenham	2.00	9	9
32901	C. Calderwood	West Ham	2.50	1	1
32902	R. Hall	West Ham	2.00	0	0
32903	S. Potts	West Ham	1.50	0	2
33001	C. Perry	Wimbledon	2.50	0	0
33002	D. Blackwell	Wimbledon	2.50	0	0

Code	Name	Team	Cost	Week	Total
40101	E. Jess	Aberdeen	3.00	1	2
40102	P. Bernard	Aberdeen	2.00	0	8
40201	M. Overmars	Arsenal	3.50	2	5
40202	P. Vieira	Arsenal	2.50	0	1
40203	S. Hughes	Arsenal	2.50	2	6
40204	R. Parlow	Arsenal	1.50	1	2
40205	D. Platt	Arsenal	4.00	1	3
40301	M. Draper	Aston Villa	2.50	1	2
40302	I. Taylor	Aston Villa	2.00	0	2
40303	A. Townsend	Aston Villa	3.00	1	11
40401	N. Redfern	Barnsley	2.00	1	2
40402	E. Tinkler	Barnsley	1.00	1	3
40403	D. Sheridan	Barnsley	0.50	1	5
40404	M. Bullock	Barnsley	2.50	1	7
40501	J. Wilcox	Blackburn	2.50	1	6
40502	B. McKinlay	Blackburn	2.50	0	0
40503	T. Sherwood	Blackburn	2.50	1	6
40504	G. Fittorini	Blackburn	3.00	1	3
40601	A. Thompson	Bolton	2.00	1	4
40602	S. Sellers	Bolton	2.00	1	3
40603	P. Frandsen	Bolton	2.00	1	3

NEWS

Short sidelined over Montserrat

■ Tony Blair moved to end the disarray in the Government's handling of the volcano crisis in Montserrat by setting up a Whitehall action group to co-ordinate aid to the islanders.

The move was seen as sidelining Clare Short, the International Development Secretary, who had criticised Montserrat's leaders for demanding too much money. The new group, with officials from five government departments and the Bank of England, will meet today. Pages 1, 11, 16

Waders keep man afloat in Irish Sea

■ A Lancashire man survived in the Irish Sea for almost 20 hours by turning his waders upside down and filling them with air to stay afloat after his boat capsized when it was hit by a freak wave. His son, who was with him on a fishing trip, was still missing last night. Page 1

Mrs Cook replies

Margaret Cook, the Foreign Secretary's estranged wife, has written to *The Times* about the collapse of their marriage and the sacrifices mothers make for husbands' careers. Pages 1, 17

Haughey faces ruin

Charles Haughey faced prosecution and financial ruin after a tribunal accused the former Irish Taoiseach of lies, tax evasion and probable criminal obstruction of its investigation. Page 2

Madame Ambassador

Janet Rogan, 34 and single, has been made Britain's deputy ambassador in Sarajevo amid signs that the traditional male domination of the Diplomatic Service is being eroded. Page 3

Mother goes free

An English mother spoke of her relief after a Cypriot judge let her go free with a £400 fine after she made a bogus claim against a local hotel worker. Page 3

Journalist may sue

Victoria Britain, *The Guardian's* deputy foreign editor, is considering suing MI5 after being put under surveillance by the security service. Page 4

CJD water theory

An investigation into a cluster of CJD cases in Kent has led to fresh allegations that the domestic water supply could be a possible source of infection. Page 5

Fresh Daddy puts Hague in party spirit

■ William Hague and his fiancée Pfiön Jenkins visited the Notting Hill Carnival. They drank exotic cocktails — a Fresh Daddy and, for Ms Jenkins, a Cool Johnny, and sipped coconut juice. Apart from photographers and minders, only a handful of revellers greeted the Tory leader. Others were simply too drunk, stoned or engrossed in the music to notice. Page 1

Lost museum

British Museum archaeologists have found remains of the first museum, demolished more than 150 years ago, in the forecourt. It is mostly buried beneath its modern replacement. Page 6

MoD offline

The Ministry of Defence's most modern office, the £254 million Procurement Executive in Bristol, has a computer system that is incompatible with the ministry's Whitehall network. Page 7

Confident Kohl

Helmut Kohl dismissed rumours about Theo Waigel, his Finance Minister, and a reshuffle. He urged his coalition to concentrate on introducing the euro and winning the elections. Page 8

Crimea protest

Russia protested as the first US Navy ships to visit Crimea since 1991 joined vessels from Turkey, Romania, Bulgaria and Georgia for naval exercises. Page 9

Diplomat defects

The North Korean Ambassador to Egypt has sought asylum in the West. Jang Seung-gil and his wife are reported to have been granted asylum by America. Page 10

Smoking victory

Florida claimed a victory after the tobacco industry agreed to pay \$11.3 billion compensation for state medical bills for smoking-related illnesses. Page 11



A polar bear spotted off Alaska by Greenpeace. Global warming is reducing ice algae, which are crucial to the Arctic food chain.

BUSINESS

Power plan: The electricity regulator is ready to set out plans to reform the wholesale electricity market, known as the pool, and win lower prices for domestic and industrial consumers. Page 44

Rock windfall: Members of Northern Rock Building Society expect bigger windfall payments than estimated because of City demand for banking shares. Page 44

By the book: Books etc, the London-based book retailing chain, is to seek a stock market listing this year. Page 44

Rail revival: The Government is ready to approve a string of railway reconstruction projects that would reconnect some of the towns which lost their train station in the Beeching cuts. Page 41

SPORT

Tennis: Greg Rusedski has moved up to No 20 in the world rankings, one place ahead of Tim Henman, and has regained his position as the British No 1. Page 23

Cricket: Alec Stewart has emerged as the most likely player to be named as successor to Michael Atherton if he decides to step down as England captain. Page 27

Racing: Shaft of Light, owned by the Queen, won the Moet & Chandon Silver Mug, which is known as the amateurs' Derby, at Epsom. Page 29

Rugby league: Bradford Bulls, the new champions and unbeaten for 20 matches, lost their first Super League game of the season when they were beaten 33-18 by Wigan Warriors. Page 26

ARTS

Miniature masterpieces: The virtues of portrait miniatures are on display in works from the Royal Collection on show at the Queen's Gallery. Page 14

Busy before: The conductor Valery Gergiev is a busy man at the Edinburgh Festival. Something like a quarter of the orchestral concerts presented by the festival this year were conducted by him. Page 14

Veteran popsters: "No one could have said that U2 resembled a band in crisis when their PopMart extravaganza packed out Wembley Stadium on Saturday." Page 15

Proms visitors: The Dallas Symphony powers its way into the Albert Hall with a distinctive sound-and-light show calculated to leave its mark on the season. Page 15

Answering bullies: Who are the victims of bullying, who are the bullies, how to spot the signs of bullying and what to do if your child is a victim. Page 12

Mystery tour: How a fortune-teller's warning led a war-weary journalist on a voyage of self-discovery into magic and mysticism. Bill Frost reports. Page 13

Sporting chances: The time has come for the process of judicial review to be applicable in sport, says David Pannick QC. Page 31

Together: A solicitor hails the Government's liaison by Cabinet with a political rival as a stepping stone on the path to a less adversarial political culture. Page 32

Surviving: Once franchising was a buzzword for ambitious business newcomers. Now two new reports claim that survival rates are lower than previously thought. Page 33

Gamesback kids: Help for disappointed A-level students. Page 37

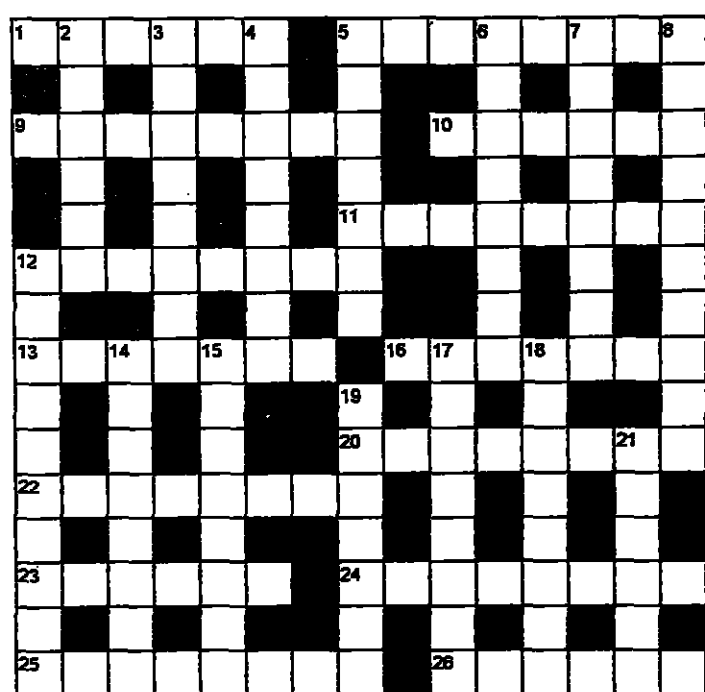
The level of pollution: is an excellent indicator of the civility of a country, an indicator of the moral health of a nation. The conclusions that may be drawn in France are not very encouraging — *Le Monde*.

TOMORROW

INTERFACE
Onward cyber soldiers: how the digital battlefield puts the Army on war alert

HOMES
The fabulously rich who come to London for trophy homes

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,568



- ACROSS**
- Conveyance appearing after pub squabble (6).
 - Coat down under used for showy ornamentation (8).
 - Forceful criticism from family after support is withdrawn (8).
 - Garment protecting doctor in battle (6).
 - Ready to hold forth without notes (4,4).
 - The first person seated in theatre in days gone by (5,3).
 - A way to travel across the bay, perhaps (7).
 - Comparatively old erratum slip (7).
 - Almost valueless entry of running Blue lacking form (8).
 - Material soldier, perhaps, put on — or policeman (8).
 - Insert leaving one cold area for another (6).
- DOWN**
- Pamphlet from doctor that's put outside front of surgery (8).
 - Fodder provided by Farmer Giles with an arrangement at end of byre (8).
 - Cargo heading out East (6).
 - Stairs altered at the top to make a landing (6).
 - An old servant one would not let go (8).
 - Strike gaining worker position of control (4,4).
 - Woman in distress in river flood (7).
 - Most expensive thoroughfare put into finest environment (8).
 - Research unit run by road organisation in part of Canada (8).
 - Guiding principles produced by guards on expresses (10).
 - Schoolboy made progress at this, according to Jacques (6,4).
 - Gunsers infiltrating under cover mounted observation positions (8).
 - Magnificent carriage drawn up in drive (8).
 - Supporter upset by English display in test bearing on the Ashes, perhaps (8).
 - Exalted as Elijah was (8).
 - As part of raiment it lent style (7).
 - Singular entry in marriage agreement (6).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,567

PIPPEDATTHEPOST
EXPERIENCE
EXORCISER LATHI
VUHEMANS
INDEED MISTAKEN
S O N I E
HUIATIS WAYFARE
TEWLT
PETERPAN BALSAM
TIT A
ORNAMENT VESUS
V I O S T
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TUESDAY AUGUST 26 1997

New British No 1 overcomes difficult hurdle to reach second round of US Open

Rusedski makes impressive opening

FROM DAVID POWELL IN NEW YORK

GREG RUSEDSKI replaced Tim Henman as the Great Britain No 1 yesterday and celebrated his new status with a highly impressive first-round victory in the US Open here at Flushing Meadows.

Rusedski's recent fine form elevated him three places in the world rankings, to No 20, the highest he has been at any time during his career. Henman dropped to 21st and has lost his place at the head of the British rankings for the first time in 17 months.

Rusedski gained 50 points to move on to 1,601 points after reaching the quarter-finals of the Boston tour event. Henman, who was inactive

life. Wheaton, 25, may be ranked only 121st but he was a quarter-finalist here in 1990 and reached the fourth round last year.

His slide in the rankings has been due to an Achilles tendon injury from which he appears now to have recovered. Rusedski won the first set with a 139mph ace, though it was not a story of him winning the match purely by service. Rusedski played all kinds of winners, and took the second set with a stinging cross-court backhand.

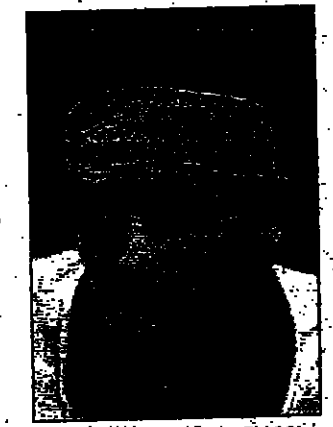
This was the first match between Rusedski and Wheaton. The Briton now goes on to play Fabrice Santoro of France, who is world-ranked 41, or Marcos Ondruska, of South Africa, the world No 112.

Mark Philippoussis was Rusedski's first victim at Wimbledon this year. Seeded No 7, on that occasion, the Australian went out to the Briton in the opening round. Philippoussis, seeded No 14 here, suffered no such setback this time, defeating Karim Alami, from Morocco, 6-3, 6-4, 3-6, 6-4 yesterday.

Although Philippoussis is ranked at No 19 in the world, 35 places above his opponent, he knew not to take him lightly. Alami had won the most recent match between them, Philippoussis taking only two games from him on clay in Rome this year.

Playing on the old main court, in the Louis Armstrong Stadium, Philippoussis served 23 aces, underpinning his reputation as one of the few players with a delivery to rival Rusedski's. He is seeded to meet Goran Ivanisevic in the quarter-finals.

Felix Mantilla is one of five seeded Spanish players in the men's draw but he has rarely looked secure on hard courts. The exception was at the Australian Open in Melbourne this year, when he reached the quarter-finals.

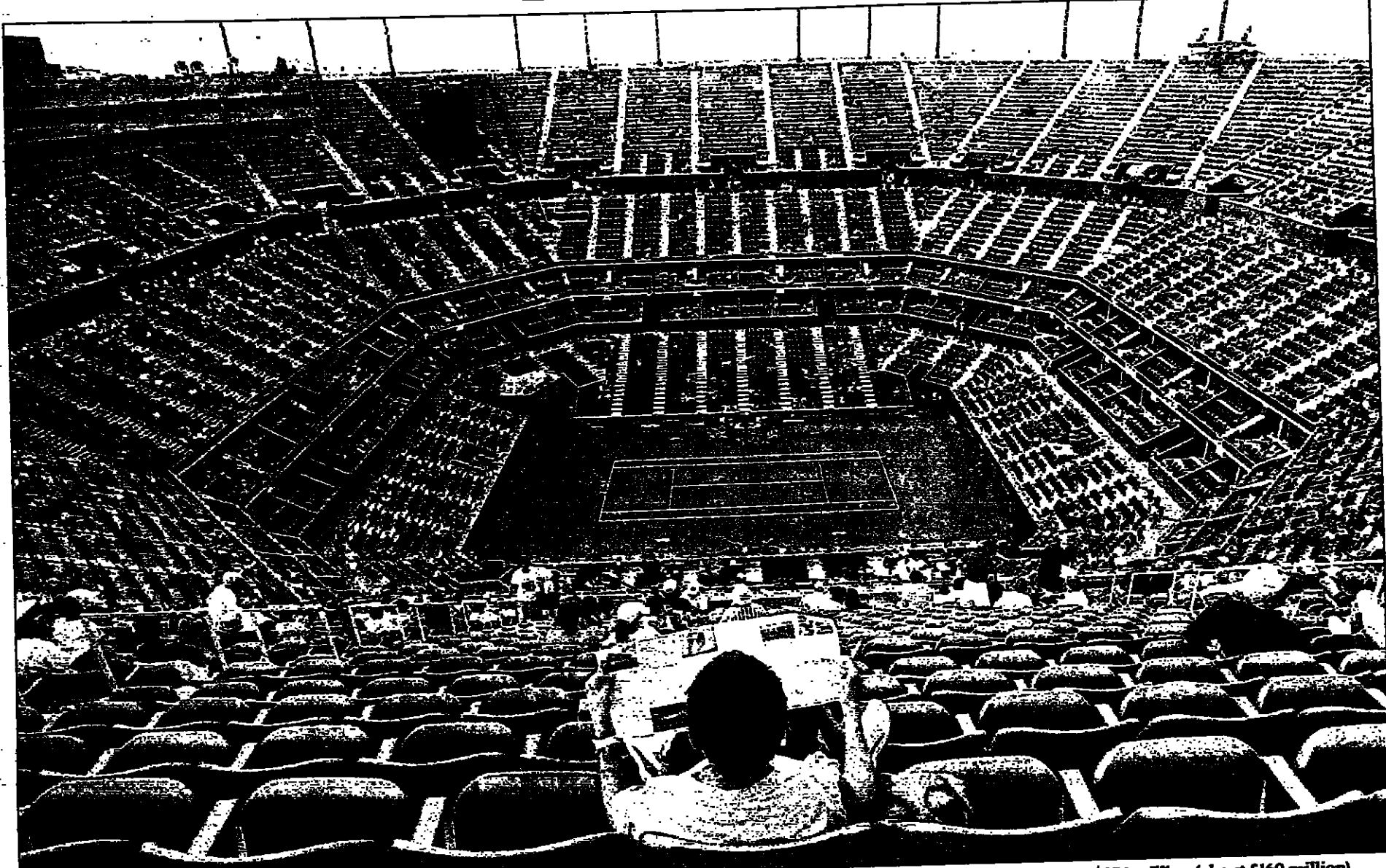


Rusedski: up to No 20

during the corresponding week, lost 57 points and fell to 1,559 points.

Henman plays his first match here today, against Thomas Muster, the No 5 seed from Austria. Henman said of the new rankings: "He [Greg] deserves to take over as No 1 the way he has been playing in the last few weeks. He has been playing very well and it is good for both of us. Hopefully, we can push each other higher and higher."

Rusedski defeated David Wheaton, a wild-card entry, from the United States, 6-2, 6-3, 6-3, yesterday, playing some of the best tennis of his



A spectator's eye view of the new Arthur Ashe stadium, which seats 22,500 and is the world's largest tennis stadium. The arena cost \$254 million (about £160 million)

Seeded No 12 here, he made a good start yesterday.

Mantilla played Jason Stoltenberg, of Australia, for the first time and won 7-6, 6-3, 6-2. Stoltenberg, ranked 56, found Mantilla particularly efficient on his first service as the Spaniard continued in his rich vein of form.

When Mantilla won the Croatian Open four weeks ago, beating Sergi Bruguera in the final, it was his third ATP tournament win in six weeks. Bruguera is one of the four other seeded Spaniards, together with Alex Corretja, Carlos Moya and Albert Costa.

Bjorn Borg will make a rare visit to Australia in December to head the field in the inaugural Sydney Champions tennis tournament.

The five-times Wimbledon and six-times French Open champion only completed in one Australian Open, reaching the third round in 1974.

Jimmy Connors was the other main draw card in an eight-player line-up for the 22nd and final tournament of the year on the over-35s tour.

Borg beat Johan Kriek and John McEnroe in straight sets before losing to Connors in the final in New York two weeks ago, then won in Cape Cod

last week, beating Connors in a semi-final and Andre Gomez in the final. McEnroe will not play in Sydney.

Anke Huber, of Germany, and Lindsay Davenport, of the United States, each rose one place in the WTA Tour rankings, which were released yesterday.

Davenport rose to No 6, moving the injured former world No 1, Steffi Graf, down to No 7, one place ahead of her compatriot. Huber, who swapped spots with Conchita Martinez of Spain.

Results, page 42
Rubin's disaster, page 42

Jansen plays down Celtic's daunting European task

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

WIM JANSEN, the Celtic coach, adopted a low-key approach yesterday as he plotted his team's route into the first round proper of the UEFA Cup. Celtic have to overturn a 2-1 first-leg deficit when they meet FC Tirol, of Austria, at Celtic Park, Alan Stubbs, the defender, having scored a late away goal in the Tirol Stadium to give Celtic a chance of progressing beyond the preliminary stages.

"We have gained confidence from our two wins against St Johnstone, but this will be a very different proposition," Jansen said. "The Austrians prefer to play a team in their own half and will be happy to sit back and wait for us to attack."

"Our problem is Tirol have a different style of play to that which we are used to and it will not be so easy to play it our way. To be honest, I think our chances of success tomorrow are fifty-fifty. We will need our supporters firmly behind us."

Celtic have an extra incentive in the possible presence of Rangers in the UEFA Cup. If the Scottish champions fail to retrieve a 3-0 first-leg deficit in their European Cup second qualifying round match with IFK Gothenburg, they will go into the UEFA Cup. Jansen's main injury worries are Simon Donnelly and Stubbs. Both are expected to feature, although Stubbs is unlikely to start.

Tommy McLean, the Dundee United manager, will demand a more direct approach from his team in their attempt to overcome Trabzonspor, of Turkey, in another UEFA Cup match. United trail 1-0 from the first leg and had the worst possible preparation in losing 5-1 to Rangers on Saturday.

"I was very disappointed at the amount of stuff we played across the park on Saturday," McLean said. "We were all pretty passes and there was no penetration at all. We will never cause problems doing that, especially against top-class opposition like Trabzonspor." Trabzonspor's own warm-up was rather more impressive. They beat Fenerbahce 3-1 and arrive at Tannadice with a 100 per cent record this season. "Make no mistake, it was a big blow to lose like that at Ibrox and we must pick ourselves up," McLean said. "We cannot afford to dwell on that as it's a big game tomorrow against a quality side. The players know how I feel about what happened and it's a question now of how they react to that."

McLean will at least be able to count on Maurice Malpas, who returns from suspension.

Spanish footballers 'set to strike' over foreigners

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

THE Soccer Players Association (AFE) in Spain voted yesterday to call an indefinite strike if the number of foreign players is not reduced, according to a television report.

The report said Spain's Sports Secretary, Pedro Antonio Martin, would meet with the AFE today to try to avert the strike.

First and second division players want to limit the number of non-European Union foreigners because of concern that Spain's talented junior players are not getting enough opportunities to play at the top level.

They said a deal worked out last month between the Professional Soccer League and the Spanish Soccer Federation, to restrict the number of foreign players to six in each squad, with four allowed to play at any one time, did not go far enough.

The strike will not affect the first day of the season, which starts on Sunday, because there is a legal waiting period of five days.

Paris Saint-Germain's appeal to have a two-goal penalty overturned for using a suspended player in the first leg of their European Cup preliminary-round tie against Steaua Bucharest was turned down by UEFA yesterday.

The decision means that Paris's 3-2 loss in Bucharest on August 13 goes into the record books as a 3-0 defeat. They now have a huge task to beat the Romanian side by at least four goals in the return leg in Paris tomorrow to qualify for the Champions' League.

"We respect the decision but we are extremely disappointed," Jean-Francois Domergue, the Paris director-general, said.

"Now we will just try to do

our best to prepare in the next 48 hours. We must make a maximum effort to repair the damage that has been done. Now it is up to the players."

The UEFA appeals board also upheld a similar decision in a case involving the Georgia club, Dynamo Batumi's, use of an ineligible player in the first leg of their European Cup Winners' Cup qualifying match against Ararat Yerevan.

Batumi had scored a 4-2 victory over the Armenian club in the August 14 contest but were punished with a 3-0 defeat for fielding suspended player David Sologashvili.

Paris officials, who admitted that their defender, Laurent Fourrier, who played the entire match, was ineligible because of his bookings last year, had hoped to get the two goal penalty reduced or replaced by a fine.

Lewis bows out with broadside at Johnson

An athletics legend bids farewell to Europe tonight after speaking his mind about Michael Johnson

Cad Lewis last night launched a fierce broadside at the man who succeeded him as the world's greatest athlete, claiming that Michael Johnson was on an "ego-fest".

The nine-times Olympic champion made the comment as he prepared to make his final appearance in Europe before retirement by competing in the climax to the Golden Four grand prix series in Berlin. Lewis attacked the reigning behind-Johnson's head-to-head with Donovan Bailey, the Olympic 100 metres champion, which Johnson lost after pulling up injured.

"The only reason why Michael wanted that meeting was to say 'Hey, look I'm the fastest in the world,'" Lewis said of the £1 million challenge

in the Toronto Sky Dome in June. "It was an ego-fest. He was just trying his hardest to bring all the attention on to him. But when you try to do that you are never successful, the meeting was a disaster and the people saw through it."

"It had nothing to do with promoting the sport. Where were the coaching clinics for young kids the day before? Why was there no autograph signing session?"

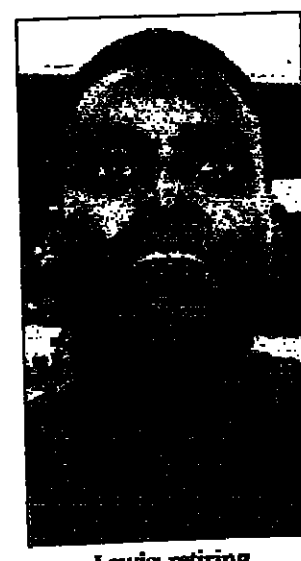
Johnson, who successfully defended his 400 metres crown at the world championships in Athens last month,

counted more controversy at Crystal Palace last week when he collected £60,000 after finishing only fifth in the 200 metres and pulling out of the relay. That meeting was poorly attended, with only around 3,000 turning up, and Lewis believes radical action has to be taken to attract fans back to the track.

Lewis, who has taken part in a series of junior races to mark his farewell to the grand prix circuit, said promoters had to follow the lead of sports such as American basketball. Lewis, 36, has

borrowed from basketball terminology by bringing together a sprint "dream-team" of four of the fastest men in history for an attack on the 4 x 100 metres relay "world record".

Lewis will be joined by his fellow former world 100 metres record-holder, Leroy Burrell, Frankie Fredericks, of Namibia, and Bailey — the present holder of the mark — though the record will not be ratified even if it is broken, as they are a composite team. But that matters little to Lewis, who said: "I've got four of the fastest people in history on the same team. It's never happened before and probably will never happen again. But this is what spectators want. Our promoters have to realise that."



Lewis retiring

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Inimitable Irishman defies convention to compete in ruthless world of Formula One motor racing

Jordan thrives in the power game

BY MICHAEL CALVIN

AT FIRST glance, Eddie Jordan is the archetypal over-achiever, a man with the attention span of a hyperactive child. He is a cultural stereotype, as quintessentially Irish as Guinness and Gaelic football. He is an unashamed retro rocker, who plays drums with the abandon of Keith Moon and sports sideburns that went out of fashion with Alvin Stardust.

But look again, beyond the coterie of rock star friends, and remember that Formula One requires mastery of illusion. Think of Eddie Jordan, the banker-turned-businessman who saved himself from bankruptcy. Consider the ruthlessness required to enter the magic circle of team owners. He is the great survivor of a duplicitous sport that eats the naive alive.

The kiss that Giancarlo Fisichella planted on his cheek, as they parted at Spa on Sunday evening, confirmed Jordan's influence. It was an emotional gesture, an illustration of gratitude. The young Italian, whose stellar status was emphasised by his second place in the Belgian Grand Prix, wants to remain with him. Jordan is sufficiently confident of winning a legal battle with Benetton for Fisichella's services that he is able to resist far-reaching pressure to employ Damon Hill.

"There is a game going on, usually played on parallel levels," Jordan observed. "I've heard all the remarks before — you know, that I just didn't kiss the blarney stone. I stole it — and, subconsciously, I use them to great effect. They hurt, deep inside, but with an Irish person it is very hard to quantify what you've got. People are not sure whether I'm fooling or 100 per cent serious and that confusion gives me time to think."

"There's a different fabric to our team. It is not cold, like others. I don't believe my life is committed to Formula One. I have four children. I love golf. I'm fanatical about music. To remain sharp and crisp, you have occasionally to divorce yourself from what you want to do best. The criticism levelled against me is 'oh, he's really in it for the money, he's not really

serious because he goes on holiday'. The fact is that I own up. The rest just slide away and say they're going to meetings."

This is typical EJ, the boy who fled the Dublin bank to race go-karts in Jersey. The brown eyes are aflame. An impish smile dances across his face. He fidgets in the corner of his air-conditioned motor-home and scores points against rival powerbrokers. They are a diverse set of characters, ranging from the satirist Flavio Briatore, at Benetton, through the asexual Ron Dennis, at McLaren, to the combative Tom Walkinshaw, at Arrows.

"We are all cocooned in a membrane of our own making," Jordan reflected. "Formula One is extremely selfish. We only consider ourselves. We feel we don't need outside authorisation to do whatever we want to do. It's a bizarre world, which people outside cannot understand. I can be fighting with Flavio today and still go on holiday with him tomorrow. I could be at war with Walkinshaw and go to his party next week."

"People like Ron look at me, and turn around and say: 'When he's won his championships, let him speak.' I understand the validity of that argument, but he's done nothing since I've been in the sport. I admire him, no question, but he did his stuff in the Eighties. I often say to him: 'I hope you don't have to be as serious-looking as you to succeed, because I won't be if that's one of the criteria.'"

All, though, defer to Bernie Ecclestone, the entrepreneur who is the biggest piranha in the pond. Jordan defies convention by acknowledging his debt to him, which has a financial and a philosophical dimension. His team survived by selling Eddie Irvine to Ferrari in 1995 and, fundamentally, by accepting a seven-figure Ecclestone loan at the end of the 1991 season.

"Without Bernie, we would have been dead and gone," Jordan admitted. "In our formative years, we had three priorities: survival, stability and, eventually, success. We started in the middle of a recession. Without being na-



Jordan, left, is deep in conversation with Fisichella, the young Italian driver who impressed with second place at the Belgian Grand Prix

ive, we are very fortunate to be able to stay alive in such a global sport. The one thing that Bernie has always considered critical is that you earn your stripes and then get your rewards. It is all about loyalty and continuity."

"He's a very tough operator, but a fair one. I've felt that in his treatment of me. I've never had a contract with him, but I have always been paid on the

correct date with the right figure. People say he's bailed me out, but he has done that to a lot of people. Possibly, he felt he wanted to give Jordan Grand Prix a chance because something different was there. We bring a buzz, a different aspect to Formula One, and so we have been able to repay him, in our own way."

Favours have different dimensions, Jordan encouraged

by Ecclestone to investigate Hill's availability, was furnished with a mobile telephone number and the suggestion that a salary of \$6.5 million would be a basis for discussion. Benson and Hedges, sponsor of the Jordan team, was ready to offer support from a contingency fund, but Hill's terms were, apparently, unrealistic. Fisichella's performance, at

Spa merely reinforced doubts about the world champion's negotiating tactics.

"Anyone who can turn his nose up at a world champion is a brave man," Jordan said with a wry smile, "but Giancarlo wants to stay with us and needs to stay with us. Young drivers, particularly Italian, have a history of being a little bit fragile, mentally. As he himself says, it's dangerous

to take a baby away from its mother too soon. He's grown so quickly with Jordan that, in his opinion and mine, it's too early for him to leave."

So, with Ralf Schumacher also under contract, is it safe to assume Jordan will have the same drivers next season? "Ah, I didn't say that," he said. "The unspoken advice, to expect the unexpected, should be heeded."

Williams flies in to savour triumph

BY A CORRESPONDENT

FRANK WILLIAMS put the troubles of the Belgian Grand Prix behind him yesterday. The Formula One team owner flew into the Thruxton circuit to watch the saloon car arm of his motor sport organisation complete a clean sweep of the titles of the Auto Trader RAC Touring Car Championship.

A seventh place for Jason Plato in the first race was sufficient to clinch a second manufacturer's championship in three years for the Williams-built Renault Laguna. Plato later finished sixth which, when added to a second place for Alain Menu, the newly crowned champion, gave the team prize to the Didcot-based outfit.

"I'm thrilled to bits," Williams said. "Winning championships is the result of a lot of races not just one or two flashes in the pan. This championship is a big test of the mental and physical strength of both the team and the drivers and they have got their just rewards today."

John Birtcliffe and Frank Biela won a race each in their four-wheel drive Audi Quattros. Birtcliffe's second victory of his fledgling career marked the Englishman out as star of the future. On a damp track, he took the lead at the start and fended off Biela, his team-mate from Germany, right to the end. "Frank hit me a couple of times, but it's not a big deal, the Audi is very stable in those kind of situations," Birtcliffe said.

Biela made no mistake in the second race, though, leading from start to finish to record his fourth win of the season. He is now favourite to finish runner-up in the drivers' standings.

The Honda Accords of James Thompson, from Yorkshire, and Gabriele Tarquini, of Italy, finished third and fourth in both races, while Will Hoy gave Ford Mondeo its best result of the season by finishing fifth in the opening race.

RUGBY UNION: ENGLISH CLUBS CALL FOR GREATER SHARE OF EUROPEAN MONEY

Celts provoke Wasps' anger

BY DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

WHEN Wasps, the English league champions, open their Allied Dunbar Premiership campaign at Bristol on Saturday, a week later than the rest of the first division after the postponement of their scheduled game with Leicester last weekend, it will represent their only competitive outing before the start of the Heineken Cup.

Their first excursion into Europe this season takes them, ironically, into Wales, where they play Swansea on September 6. The irony derives not from the fact that Wales is scarcely continental, but that England's leading clubs perceive the Welsh, Scottish and Irish as gaining at their expense from the financial arrangements made by European Rugby Cup Ltd (ERC) this season.

"We are very unhappy with what is on offer in Europe," Jeff Haddock, the chief executive of Wasps, said. "We feel

English clubs are being penalised by the Celtic nations. They are on the same level of distribution with hardly the same number of clubs or divisions and we feel that has to change if English clubs are to participate."

Given that England missed the inaugural season of European club rugby and that this tournament is perceived as being integral to the development of standards and paying customers, Wasps fear their view may be dismissed. Their criticism was brought up earlier this month by Bill Beaumont and Peter Wheeler, England's representatives on the ERC board, and Wheeler suggests the financial arrangements are "a bit too socialist-based."

There are strong feelings among English and French clubs, Wheeler, the Leicester chief executive, said. "Maybe if Ireland or Scotland produced a semi-finalist or finalist, they would find the arrangements working against them." This season's

finalists receive £60,000 and the semi-finalists £40,000, double the sums of last season, but whether that will cover the expenses incurred in reaching the closing stages remains to be seen.

"There are no travel expenses from ERC, which seems very strange, when the European Conference teams receive a contribution," Haddock said. "The four clubs competing in the flag-



Wheeler, concern

ship competition should be able to deduct their expenses. I have written to Roger Pickering [the ERC chief executive] at length about this and other anomalies, but I believe that some of the fears we raised have been pushed under the table."

Wales prepare for the first international of the domestic season, against Romania in Wrexham on Saturday, content that Nathan Thomas will take his place at No 8. Thomas was sent off for stamping while playing for Bath against Newcastle on Saturday, but can continue playing until his disciplinary hearing.

However, Scott Gibbs has suffered a recurrence of ankle ligament problems and may be forced to withdraw. The Swansea centre will undergo a medical examination today, as will Wayne Proctor, the Llanelli wing. Jonathan Humphreys, the Cardiff hooker, is expected to take his place in the A international against Romania at Pontypridd this evening, despite a back injury.

England boys excel in Australia

BY DAVID HANDS

WHILE the Rugby Football Union (RFU) considers the question of a new national coach — Clive Woodward is due to meet Don Rutherford, the director of rugby, today — arguably the most successful coach in the English representative system is preparing his players for an international with Australia at the North Sydney Oval tomorrow.

Since taking over as coach of England's 18-group schoolboys four years ago, Geoff Wappett has accumulated three grand slams. Only twice have his teams known defeat — against Ireland last year and New Zealand a year earlier — and in seven games in Australia this month England have overwhelmed their opponents.

This alone does not make Wappett, who manages the Lupton Centre at Sandhergh, an instant candidate for elevation. In 1979, England did promote Mike Davis from the schools' role to senior England coach. However, when it is remembered that

Wappett also has been involved with the second-division club, Rotherham, for the past 20 months, it does give him a credible background.

The boys have run up such big scores I suspect they may not be getting the credit they deserve," Wappett said from Brisbane after his players had beaten Queensland Schools last weekend. Against the best Australia can throw at them.

England have scored 83 tries and conceded only five, and if they can sustain their unbeaten record tomorrow they will have cause to celebrate.

The qualities of Lee Best, the Durham wing and leading try-scorer with 11, have already been recognised by Richmond; those of Jonathan Wilkinson, the stand-off half from Lord Wandsworth's College, by Newcastle.

Hill talks over switch

RICHARD HILL is expected to have talks within the next 48 hours with Tom Walkinshaw. Gloucester's multimillionaire backer, about a possible role in the new-look England coaching team.

Hill was to have spoken to Walkinshaw after Gloucester's 35-13 victory over Bristol on Saturday, but the Arrows Formula One team owner flew back to Spa for the Belgian Grand Prix.

Hill, the Gloucester coaching director, said yesterday: "I am hoping to see him either tomorrow or Wednesday, because we didn't have time to speak on Saturday as there was so much going on after the match."

Hill had been approached to take over Jack Rowell's post as England's full-time coach last week but turned it down flatly. He believes the Rugby Football Union will not have the time to put anyone into position for the job by their own Friday deadline.

He said: "I think it is likely to be delayed, because I cannot see them sorting the structure out by then."

ENGLAND 18-GROUP in Australia: 1. Bath (10-0), 2. Bristol (10-0), 3. Cardiff (10-0), 4. Gloucester (10-0), 5. Harlequins (10-0), 6. Leicester (10-0), 7. Llanelli (10-0), 8. Newcastle (10-0), 9. Northampton (10-0), 10. Oxford (10-0), 11. Peterborough (10-0), 12. Rotherham (10-0), 13. Saracens (10-0), 14. Southampton (10-0), 15. Swansea (10-0), 16. Wasps (10-0), 17. Worcester (10-0), 18. York (10-0).

IN BRIEF

Hall runs off with prize at The Belfry

WALTER HALL, a rookie on the US Seniors Tour, scored a closing 70 for an 11-under-par 277 and a three-shot victory in the PGA championship at The Belfry yesterday. It was Hall's third seniors title in five starts since turning 50 in June and earned him £25,000.

Tommy Horton, Europe's leading senior, made a late run to chase his fourth win of the season but closed with a 68 for second place on 280. His cheque for £16,600 took him over the £100,000 mark for the second successive year. Mark Calcavecchia ended a two-year wait for a tournament victory by winning the Greater Vancouver Open in Surrey, British Columbia. Calcavecchia had a final round of 66, five under par on Sunday to finish one ahead of Andrew Magee.

Motor racing: Gigi Villorossi, a pioneering Formula One driver, who drove for Ferrari, Maserati and Lancia, has died aged 88 in Modena, Italy. Villorossi suffered heart failure on Sunday at a rest home in this northern city, officials at the home said. He began racing in 1950 and although he never won a grand prix, he gained five pole positions. "Villorossi is one of the drivers who have written the history of auto racing," Franco Gozzoli, former press officer for Ferrari, said.

Basketball: An Italian basketball player, Davide Ancillotti, who had been in a coma after collapsing during a tournament last week, died in hospital in Rome late on Sunday. Ancillotti, had been in intensive care since he collapsed after suffering a loss of blood supply to the brain during the match between Telekom and Nancy eight days ago.

World Student Games: Great Britain reached the quarter-finals of the basketball championship in Palermo with an easy 100-53 win over South Africa. They play for a semi-final place against Canada, who struggled to a 86-82 win over Korea.

SAILING

Smith shuts out Peters and maintains his mastery

BY EDWARD GORMAN, SAILING CORRESPONDENT

FOR the seventh time in six years, Lawrie Smith was yesterday crowned the Frontera Ultra 30 grand prix champion, after doing just enough on the last day of the Belfast regatta to shut out his old rival, Russell Peters.

Smith in Frontera did not have an outstanding three days in Northern Ireland, finishing second for the regatta behind the improving crew in United Airlines, skippered by Glyn Charles. However, Peters in DBS made life easy for him by having one of his worst weekends. After a poor start on Saturday he never fully recovered.

Going into the last race off Bangor yesterday when the breeze had got up enough to power the 30-foot speedsters to their full potential, only a last place for Smith and a win for Peters would have enabled Peters to steal the title he has only once wrested from Smith.

When Smith was over the stardine early, Peters must have thought his luck was in. But despite finding himself in last place early on, Smith hauled himself back into contention to finish in a championship-winning third place, while Peters was second.

Afterwards Smith, who now returns to his club, Cut Whitbread 60 campaign and testing on a new mast, said winning the Ultra 30 title was not getting any easier. "We had the same speed as Peters this year, whereas in previous years we have been quicker," he said, adding that three crews were capable of winning in Belfast.

It has been a close match between the two with Smith winning the first regatta at Portsmouth, then Peters prevailing by just one point in the second round in Guernsey. They were tied on equal points at Cardiff — though Smith

claimed victory by virtue of having won the last race before they went into the Belfast decider, with Smith just one point ahead overall.

While the main focus has been the annual battle between the two top boats, the grand prix has suffered less this year from the perception that it is merely a two-horse race. Of the other four boats, both Charles and Eddie Warden-Owen in Team Hoy shown the potential to win.

Indeed, in yesterday's last race, those two fought a close battle for third place overall for the series. In the event Charles scored his second win of the day, while Warden-Owen finished fourth, which was enough to secure United Airlines third spot by just one point.

FINAL OVERALL STANDINGS: United Airlines 1st, 30 Grand Prix 1st, 1st Smith, 2nd Peters, 3rd Charles, 4th Warden-Owen, 5th R. Warden, 6th G. P. Warden, 7th Peters.

ATHLETICS

Kipketer sets himself ambitious objective

WILSON KIPKETER, fresh from overcoming the daunting hurdle of breaking the world 800 metres record, now wants to scale an even more formidable barrier.

The naturalised Dane bettered Sebastian Coe's 16-year two-lap mark in Zurich 12 days ago and improved it for a second time by clocking 1min 41.15sec in Cologne on Sunday.

The world champion, whose world record-breaking performance was one of two by Kenya-born runners at the German meeting, has his sights set on becoming the first athlete to dip under 1min 40sec.

Kipketer's performances have finally ended debate about the validity of Coe's record, which was recorded by semi-automatic timing in Florence. Many people considered the 1:41.77 of Joaquim Cruz, of Brazil, on the same Cologne

track in 1984, to be a more genuine standard.

Barely had the cheers for Kipketer's achievement died, than another world record fell. Bernard Barmasai chopping almost 3-sec off the previous best 3,000 metres steeplechase to win in 7:55.72.

The organisers said that the injury, which the 29-year-old American suffered this summer by pulling the quadricip in his left leg, had turned for the worse.

Despite the injury, Johnson won the 400 metres at the world championships in Athens three weeks ago for his seventh world title.

Johnson struck by leg injury

MICHAEL JOHNSON, the double Olympic champion, has pulled out of the Tokyo international athletics meeting next month because of a nagging leg injury, the competition organisers said yesterday.

The organisers said that the injury, which the 29-year-old American suffered this summer by pulling the quadricip in his left leg, had turned for the worse.

At the Tokyo International Super Track and Field Meet at the National Stadium in Tokyo on September 16, he would have taken on Frankie Fredericks of Namibia in the 200 metres.

Kipketer: new target

TENNIS

New stadium fails to inspire Rubin in opening match

FROM DAVID POWELL IN NEW YORK

THE first match of the US Open in the new Arthur Ashe Stadium here at Flushing Meadows yesterday should have been an occasion for Chanda Rubin to cherish. Instead, she will want to forget it.

A black American, like Ashe, Rubin appeared on court against an opponent whom the rankings suggested she should defeat. Leading 4-2 in the first set, her progress into the second round seemed a matter of course.

Rubin, though, had such a difficult time with her tennis these past 18 months that her relationship with disappointment has been close and lasting. Yesterday, the bonding continued. She lost the last ten games to Tamasuag, from Thailand, and was eliminated 6-4, 6-0 in 53 minutes.

Instead of entering the record books as the first Asian in the largest tennis stadium in the world, Rubin

has been marked down as having made the quickest exit. Tamasuag, on the other hand, was celebrating the best win of her career. At 20, she is continuing to make impressive progress.

Before this year, Tamasuag had not played in a grand-slam singles tournament. Now she has appeared in all four, each time winning her first-round match. She reached the last 32 of the Australian Open championship, the last 64 in the French and the last 32 at Wimbledon. She has improved her ranking every year since 1992, to 79th at the end of last year and now to 41st.

By contrast, Rubin has been trying to regain lost ground. Now ranked 32nd, she was as high as No 6 in April last year, having reached her first grand-slam semi-final in Melbourne. Just as she seemed ready to make her bid with the elite, she suffered a wrist injury that ruled her out of the

game for ten months. The road back has been potholed with defeats.

Rubin lost to Anna Kournikova, the 16-year-old Russian, 6-1, 6-1 in the first round at Wimbledon and has departed in the opening round in four of her past five tournaments. The climax to the first set yesterday was a cameo of how confidence has deserted her.

One simple forehand should have produced a winner but she found the net, and another forehand — this time from the baseline — was overhit. Within 20 minutes, she was 5-0 down in the second set. Two years ago, in the French championships, Rubin won from 0-5, 0-40 in the deciding set against Jana Novotna, but now she is a player struggling with herself.

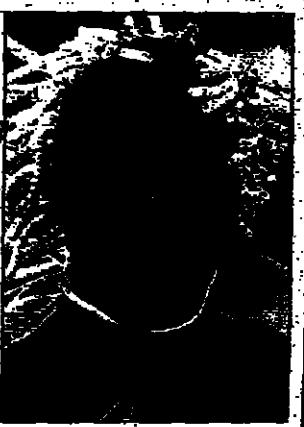
Tamasuag was born in Los Angeles but moved with her family to Thailand when she was five. Back home, the biggest stadium for tennis holds 100 people. Here the capacity is close to 23,000, although there were no more than 2,000 in for the start of the first match yesterday. The evening session, though, was a guaranteed sell-out as a host of former champions gathered to attend the opening ceremony.

Ashe, the 1968 US Open champion, dedicated himself to working with inner-city children before his death from an AIDS-related disease. He would have admired Rubin, if not for her tennis yesterday, for her work with young underprivileged children, for whom she gives tennis clinics, and on behalf of the American Heart Association and Special Olympics.

Although the ticket office here has had to employ extra staff to deal with complaints from spectators over the distance of the seating from the court, the players appear delighted with their new US Open home. "The stadium is beautiful," Pete Sampras, the singles champion on four occasions, said.

Men
First round
F. Mestral (Sp) vs J. Sklenberg (Aust) 7-6, 6-3, 6-2
M. Middel (Sp) vs H. Deslauriers (Can) 6-1, 7-6, 6-3
M. Philippoussis (Aust) vs K. Alami (Morocco) 6-3, 6-4, 3-6, 6-4

Women
First round
L. Raymond (US) vs R. Dragovic (Croat) 6-2, 6-3, 6-3
T. Tamasuag (Thai) vs C. Rubin (US) 6-4, 6-0
F. Parrett (GB) vs E. Collens (Bel) 6-3, 6-4
M. G. G. (GB) vs T. P. (Aust) 6-3, 6-4
G. L. Garcia (Sp) vs A. Miller (US) 4-6, 6-2
A. Dechamr-Baliet (Fr) vs A. G. S. 6-3, 6-4, 6-3
M. O. (Fr) vs E. K. (Fr) 6-3, 6-4
M. A. (Fr) vs A. G. (Fr) 1-6, 7-6, 6-2
V. Williams (US) vs L. N. (Lat) 5-7, 6-6, 6-4
S. P. (Fr) vs R. S. (Can) 6-1, 4-6, 7-6



Rubin lost in straight sets

Wilkinson hones game on his doorstep

Julian Mascat finds one of the leading British players taking the domestic route to a higher ranking

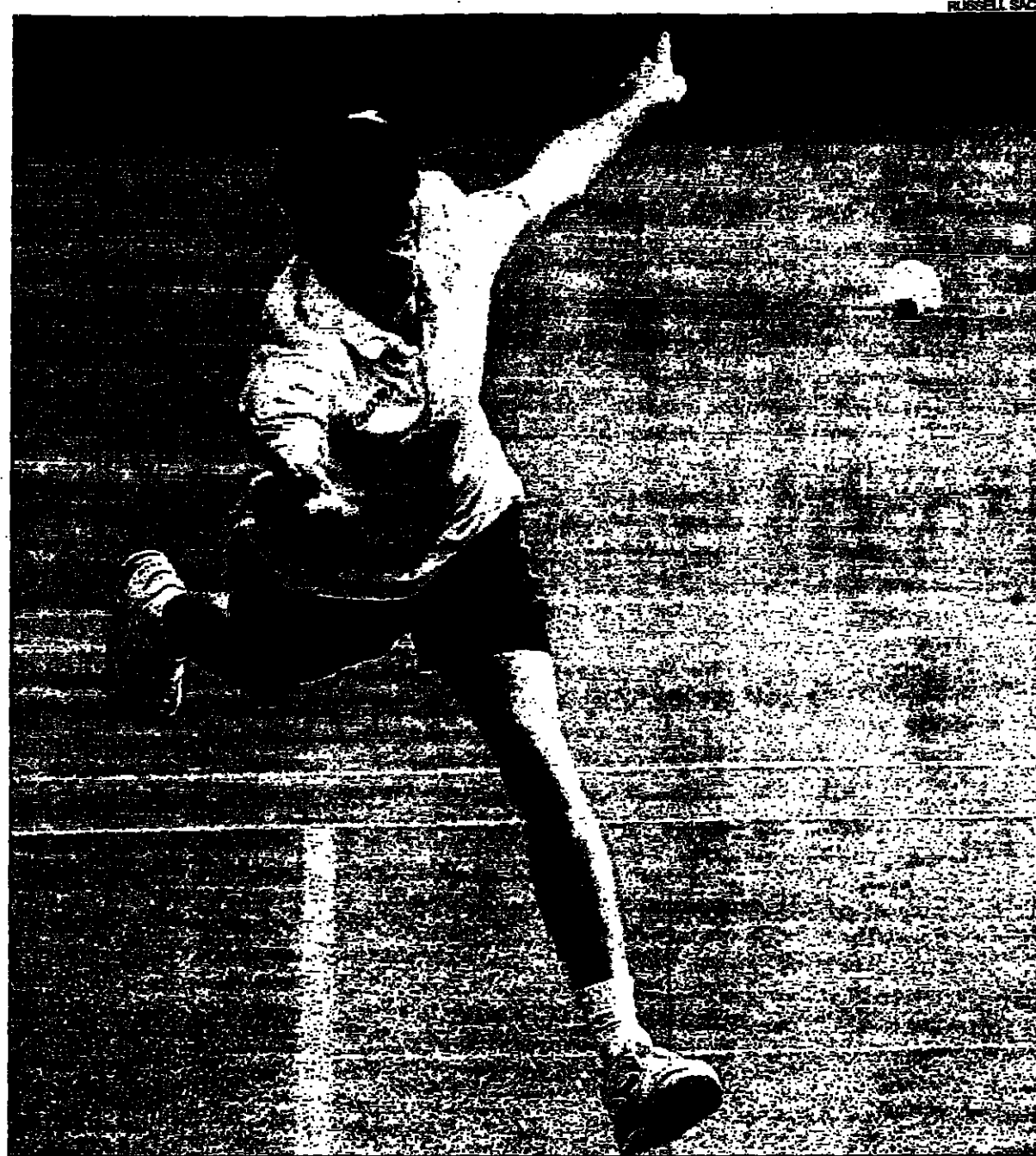
THE qualifying competition for the US Open represents an outpouring of unbridled ambition. Amid a steady stream of expletives last week, players ranked outside the top 100 jostled for a place in the main draw. Five British hopefuls — Andrew Richardson, Martin Lee, Miles MacLagan, Jamie Delgado and Danny Sapsford — all wilted at the door of the furnace. Watching them from afar was Chris Wilkinson, the British No 4, who eschewed the heat of Flushing Meadows for some infinitely cooler competition on the grass courts of Baginbun.

At face value, Wilkinson's preferred destination smacks of defeatism. You feel he should have been cutting it in New York, scrambling for a berth and the chance to down a famous name. Yet his presence at Baginbun, depicted the quixotic quest of a player's stature. A cut above the opposition at the Summer Satellite Masters, Wilkinson, 27, opted to try to advance his world ranking by a less treacherous route.

A mudge up the scale would ease his passage into the more valuable autumn tournaments, which he wants to approach with the winning habit. The play worked a treat. Having annexed three of the four satellite events — including the Masters final, where he beat Paul Han in straight sets last week — Wilkinson advanced his world ranking by 34 places to No 159.

"I have still got my ambition but it's a Catch 22 situation," Wilkinson said. "You can travel the world for a couple of months and not get any points. It is expensive, your ranking goes down and all of a sudden you are not even getting into the challenges."

Challengers represent the middle tier within the tennis structure — below the main tour but above satellites. "By picking up the points over the last few weeks, I can now relax a bit," he added. "I can



Wilkinson wisely chose the sweet, sweet grass of home in preference to trying to qualify for the US Open

go off later in the year without worrying about my ranking."

It is not generally appreciated how a player's stock can be compromised by an ill-conceived playing schedule. There are times when confidence needs restoring. To be regularly defeated is a false currency — even if it is administered by players of greater status. This is the first year that Wilkinson, from Southampton, has forsaken qualifying at north American hard-court tournaments for the joys of domesticity. It was

important that the move paid off.

"I have been playing twice a day, singles and doubles, for four weeks running," he reflected. "We play on some dodgy grass courts that can be a leveler, but I have enjoyed it. I play my best tennis when I'm nearer home."

"Touring is a lonely business and these grand-slam qualifiers are extremely tough. You come up against these South American wizards and clay-court masters you've never heard of. Every-

one is hitting the ball a lot harder now."

It cost Wilkinson £2,000 to attempt to qualify for the US Open last year. He has now had three stabs at it and failed each time. Yet there is plenty to play for away from the main tour. In Europe alone, challenger events in Austria (worth \$125,000) and Sardinia (\$50,000) were set-aside over the weekend. Wilkinson's immediate goal is to better his career-high ranking of 114, achieved four years ago, and secure a place inside the top 100.

His confidence suitably fortified after the Havant event, Wilkinson plans to play the \$75,000 Azores challenger next week before once again raising his sights to the main tour. In the next two months he plans to play tournaments at Bournemouth, Toulouse, Singapore and Beijing in advance of challenger events in Germany towards the year's end. Having successfully dismissed the upstarts snapping at his heels, the time has come for him to do some snapping of his own.

GOLF: SIX OF BALLESTEROS'S EUROPE TEAM HAVE YET TO BE DETERMINED

Guessing game goes to wire

HERE are six days to go, four rounds of golf to be played and thousands of pounds to be won before the haze lifts and it is clear who is in the Europe team for the Ryder Cup at Valderrama, southern Spain, next month.

On Sunday evening, Ballesteros, the Europe captain, will name his two selections and they will join the ten players who have automatically qualified after the BMW International Open in Munich.

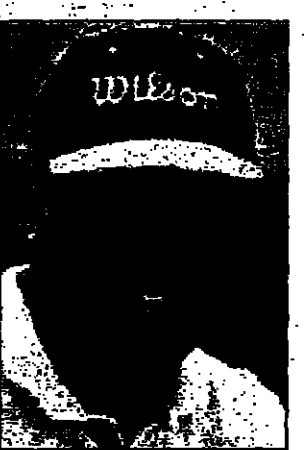
Guessing the composition of Ballesteros's team resembles one of those board games in which you try and work out who will win. If the vicar was talking to Mrs. Mesterson in the library with Bracken, her chocolate Labrador, curled up at her feet, Dick, the plumber, was having a cup of tea with Mrs. Maggs near the Aga in the kitchen; and Bob, the gardener, was sitting back the Virginia creeps from the wall of the study, who crept into the pantry and stole a slice of lemon meringue pie. At present, there are more lies in this Ryder Cup situation than in King's poem.

Six players are now definitely in Ballesteros's team — Colin Montgomerie, Darren Clarke, Bernhard Langer, Ian Woosnam, Per-Ulrik Johansson and Lee Westwood. Clarke and Westwood are newcomers and Johansson is an ever-present since 1981. Woosnam, likewise since 1983, and Montgomerie, who first competed in 1991, have 18 appearances between the three of them, four more than the entire United States team. Plenty of experience there.

Ignacio Garrido, the personable Spaniard, whose father competed in the 1979 Ryder Cup team that included players from mainland Europe for the first time, is almost certain to make his debut and he will probably be joined by Costantino Rocca, who has moved up to eighth. Beneath that red hat of his, Rocca was smiling in Dublin on Sunday evening. Both, though, could do with decent finishes in Munich, Rocca particularly, to make sure.

Now we come to the men who are feeling the pressure.

John Hopkins on the various Ryder Cup permutations that the International Open in Munich this week will unravel



Bjorn hindered by injury



Harrington: top seven slim

Thomas Bjorn, of Denmark, is one, having missed the cut in Ireland and thus been overtaken by Rocca. Bjorn, 26, has missed ten weeks of this year because of injury — a neck injury in February and an ankle injury immediately after the Open. This has hampered him and he now finds himself in precisely the position he will not want — having to play well in the last qualifying tournament to ensure the position in the team that he had looked likely to fill for some time.

Another is Padraig Harrington, who almost played himself out of contention in Dublin last week. However, better than any weakness under pressure, should be

exposed before the Ryder Cup than during it. For Harrington to get into a Ryder Cup team two years after he represented Great Britain and Ireland in the Walker Cup, he needs to finish in the top seven this weekend — and that is assuming that Jose Maria Olazabal, who overtook him last week, misses the halfway cut.

In fact, Olazabal holds the destiny of many players in his hands. If he fails to reach the last two rounds, then Paul Broadhurst, who got into the 1991 team by knowing he had to finish second in the German Open and did just that, must finish third or better, just as Joakim Haeggman, Roger

Chapman, Mark James and Sam Torrance must all finish second. And only victory would do for Peter Mitchell, David Gifford, Peter Baker, Russell Clayton, Raymond Russell, Miguel Angel Jimenez and David Carter.

Of these, it is Baker who is making the fastest surge forward. By finishing second in the Smurfit European Open on Sunday, Baker leapt from 38th to twentieth in the points table. Baker, 29, was a star of the 1993 team at The Belfry.

Olazabal, on whom so much seems to depend, was flying to Munich from Ireland and hoping to see Dr Hans-Wilhelm Muller-Wohlfahrt today for a further discussion about the condition of his right foot. Olazabal is still bothered by pain in the third toe of that foot, though he continues to make overall progress from the condition that was first diagnosed as rheumatoid arthritis but was later changed to a herniated disc in his lower back.

Then there is Nick Faldo, who was complaining at the weekend that he wanted an answer from Ballesteros. "Am I in the team or not," Faldo was asking plaintively from the American Midwest. Jesper Parnevik could have asked the same thing but was not, probably preferring to let the smoke clear in Europe and then hope to get a call from Ballesteros on Sunday.

It is hard to exaggerate Ballesteros's apparently relaxed state in Ireland last week. He told jokes, he smiled, he seemed completely at ease, both with himself, which is not always the case, and with the rest of the world, which is certainly most unusual. He knows something that we do not know, that much is certain. We must hope that he is right.

This time of the summer is often described as the silly season in politics. It is becoming a pretty silly time in golf, too. So much of this uncertainty could have been avoided if only Ballesteros had been given three or even four selections, instead of two. Then we could have seen him demonstrate the art of captaincy. As it is, it all smacks of selection by committee.

Fowler and Owen give Evans best of choices

ROY EVANS is facing his toughest decision of the season — and it has nothing to do with Steve McNamara. The Liverpool manager knows that in the next few days he must confront a problem he has unwisely been avoiding — what to do with Michael Owen, the 17-year-old forward, when Robbie Fowler, last season's leading scorer, is fit.

That choice is unlikely to be addressed at Elland Road when Liverpool meet Leeds United tonight, but more likely next Sunday when Kenny Dalglish brings Newcastle and his ex-Liverpool brigade — Old Spice as opposed to Evans's much maligned Spice Boys — to Anfield.

Although Fowler is not quite ready to play against Leeds, he is almost fit after the training ground knee injury last week that held up his comeback from pre-season ankle problems.

Evans has had to contend with the McNamara fiasco and the England man's annoyance and public embarrassment following the breakdown of the £12.5 million move to Barcelona.

But when and if he leaves out Owen is a tougher problem. Owen has been a sensation this season in Fowler's absence. He has scored twice and been about the only bright spot for Liverpool in a poor start to their campaign.

Evans either has to play three front men — Owen, Fowler and Karlheinz Riedle — or pick two from three. "I don't need to show my hand at the moment," he said. "It's a nice problem to have. But there's no assuming that Michael will be the one left out when I do have to decide."

That remark suggests that the experienced German international is also in the equation.

For now Owen and Riedle are likely to remain in tandem at Elland Road where Liverpool need to avoid going four league games without a win.

Juventus win Super Cup more easily than friends

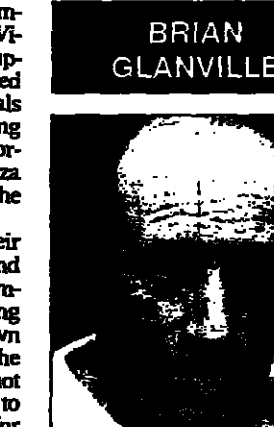
Juventus, the Italian champions, duly thrashed Vicenza, the Italian cup holders, 3-0 in the so-called Super Cup, with two goals from their expensive young striker, Filippo Inzaghi, formerly of Atlanta. Vicenza were a match for them in the first half, but then faded.

They may have sold their strikers, Christian Vieri and Alen Boksic, during the summer, but Juve remain among the favourites in their own championship and in the European Cup. They do not endear themselves, though, to the players they sell. Vieri, for example, the big 24-year-old sold to Atletico Madrid for a vast profit after just one successful season with the club, was surprised, when he left, to see that the original contract with Atletico had been signed as long ago as last April. In the interim, Luciano Moggi, Juve's celebrated wheeler-dealer, described by one paper in Italy as "a nice Pinocchio", had constantly reiterated that Vieri was not for sale. Watch his lips.

Attilio Lombardo, now inspiring Crystal Palace, left Juventus for a fraction of the fee, but his favoured club will always be Sampdoria, of Genoa, for whom he played so vigorously until 1995. Juventus? He can take them or leave them.

Franco Zeffirelli will prefer to leave them. The celebrated theatre, film and opera director, a Florentine who passionately follows Fiorentina and who paid £20,000 in damages in the past for libel against Juve, pursues them still. Thanks to his film about Jesus and his anti-Juve crusade, he says, he has become "one of the most famous of all Italians". He derides Juve's victory over Liverpool in the 1985 European Cup final at Heysel, where 39 Italian fans died, as "a cup full of blood which should have been handed back".

For Zeffirelli Juve has always influenced referees and manipulated public opinion and all because behind them is Fiat and the Agnelli dynasty. The Italians are cowards; they side with the strongest. You see it in sport, too, given that



Overseas View

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Juve is the team with the most supporters."

Asked to compare Juventus with a film or theatre character, he replied: "Richard III. He destroyed everything and everyone in a delirium of omnipotence."

Real Madrid, who have won the Spanish Super Cup with a hefty 4-1 return win against Barcelona at the Santiago Bernabeu stadium, have put a vast price of \$147 million (about £91 million) on their Holland midfield player, Clarence Seedorf, aware that Barcelona want him. His contract does not expire until 2003, but buy-outs are legitimate in Spanish football — as we know in the case of Ronaldo and his move from Barcelona to Internazionale.

Ronaldo, by the way, has been warned by the Brazil coach, Mario Zagallo, that if he does not put himself about more he will lose his place. There is plenty of competition, too, with Sonny Anderson, 26, signed by Barcelona from AS Monaco. Dodo, a new challenger, Bebeto and Adailton among those waiting in the wings.

Diego Maradona scored a penalty on Sunday for Boca Juniors in a 4-2 win against his first club, Argentinos Juniors, argued — just for a change — with the referee and had to take a dope test. The two things, he said wryly, might well be connected. Just for a change, the test was negative.

Adams adds to England woes

TONY ADAMS'S hopes of proving his fitness for England's World Cup clash with Moldova at Wembley on September 10 have received a further setback.

The Arsenal captain missed England's victory in the post-season Tournoi de France because of surgery to his right ankle and played in his first competitive match — for Arsenal reserves against Portsmouth — last week. However, he suffered a recurrence of a rib problem and will miss Arsenal's FA Cup League match away to

Leicester City tomorrow. He is also unlikely to be fit for the North London derby with Tottenham Hotspur on Saturday.

Glenn Hoddle, the England coach, will name his squad on Friday. Hoddle also will be monitoring the fitness of another defender, Sol Campbell, of Tottenham, who also has an ankle problem. Campbell is expected to return for the match against Arsenal.

England are definitely without Alan Shearer, Martin Keown and Tim Flowers. Paul Ince is ruled out through

suspension, and Robbie Fowler and Andy Cole have still to play this season after injuries.

Kenny Dalglish, the Newcastle manager, is expected to sign Peter Rudi, the Norwegian international midfielder player, for £1.5 million, despite interest from Southampton and Sheffield Wednesday.

Dalglish and Terry McDermott, the assistant manager, held talks with Rudi last weekend after watching him play for Molde and they hope to complete the transfer this week.

Bradford's hopes of crowning Super League title with unbeaten season are dashed at Odsal

Wigan halt Bulls' winning streak

Bradford Bulls 18
Wigan Warriors 33

By CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

AFTER six days of the most damaging upheaval in their history, on the seventh, Wigan Warriors lowered the colours of the new standard-bearers of the British game in a surreal, but nonetheless gripping, encounter yesterday to end Bradford Bulls' ambition of going through the Super League campaign undefeated.

However, financially crippled and still reeling from the resignations last Tuesday of Jack Robinson and Tom Rafter, the chairman and vice-chairman respectively, Wigan are far from a spent force on the field. A bravura comeback from 18-0 down demonstrated the character of the team, and of Farrell and Robinson in particular.

Farrell's inspirational leadership was a key factor, as was Robinson's determined last line of defence and two magnificent long-range tries. "People obviously thought that we were just going to turn up and be part of the party," Robinson said.

Trooping back to the dressing-rooms at half-time, Wigan looked careworn, if not quite resigned to defeat. Bradford, who plainly imagined that their work was done at 18-0 ahead, were suddenly moribund against a revitalised opposition, as their 100 per cent record disappeared after 21 successive League victories this season.

As disappointed as they were not to become the first club in the top flight to go through a season without dropping a point, Bradford have no reason for complaint. One record was broken, though. Bradford's average home attendance for the Super League exceeded 15,000 and overtook Wigan's best of 14,501 in 1995-96.

Despite this uplifting victory, Wigan are still likely to pay for their worst season in 13 years by missing out on a top-four place and a bye into the Premiership quarter-finals and, possibly, the world club championship next year.

It was possibly the celebrations after securing their first championship for 16 years that accounted for the Bulls' disintegration and the first



Culland escapes the clutches of Connolly, the Wigan centre, during Bradford's surprise defeat yesterday. Photograph: Andrew Varley

defeat by European opposition at Odsal for 12 months. In the end, they paid for a stack of missed opportunities in the opening period. Wigan had looked to be heading for a ninth defeat as early as the first minute.

The ease with which McNamara unlocked the defence and Spruce's powerful run unleashed Seales, was an ominous sign. McNamara missed the conversion, but kicked a penalty after Henry Paul, who

has had a truly dreadful season, had illegally shoved Spruce.

Twice, Seales was denied scores — once by being held on his back and then by the video official, who ruled an offside offence — before the hooker finally claimed a try.

It took Wigan 25 minutes to mount an attack of any substance, by which time Bradford were in cruise mode and playing some of their best rugby, illustrated by Dwyer's

try, which extended their lead to 18 points.

A rare example of Wigan's pedigree saw Farrell kick the ball inside to Robinson, who kicked out of several tackles and flew to the posts to score and give his side some incentive to come out for the second half. Paul was still committing blunders with infuriating regularity but, in the 54th minute, he spotted an opening around a ruck and dived in beneath the posts.

Two minutes later Wigan, to the disbelief of most in the 16,700 crowd, were level.

Many in the stands were adamant that Paul had obstructed Culland as he kicked through. He did not and Robinson, seizing on a loose ball set off on a mazy run and turned Spruce inside out in a 60-metre charge to the line.

As well as converting all six tries and dropping a goal, Farrell's intelligent passes set up touchdowns by Connolly

and Cowie that rounded off Wigan's stirring fightback.

SCORES: Bradford: Tries: Seales, Dwyer, Seales, McNamara (3); Wigan: Tries: Robinson (2), Paul, Culland, Cowie, Seales; Farrell (4); Dropped goal: Farrell.

BRADFORD BULLS: S. Spruce, A. Ekin, M. Culland, D. Dwyer, J. Seales, G. Bradley, G. Tansley, B. McGovern, J. Jones, J. Wainwright, B. Dwyer, M. Forshaw, S. McNamara, Sub: H. Paul, P. Anderson, S. Knox, H. Ashman.

WIGAN WARRIORS: J. Robinson, A. Johnson, G. Connolly, P. Radford, D. Elliott, H. Paul, C. Madigan, L. Harrison, M. Hall, M. Cowie, S. Haughton, M. Cassidy, A. Farrell, Sub: J. Clarke, S. Hargrave, T. Talbot, P. Jonsson.

Referee: S. Ffrench (Cardiff).

Tigers' future still in doubt despite revival

Warrington Wolves 22
Castleford Tigers 14

By A CORRESPONDENT

CASTLEFORD'S future in the Super League remains uncertain after a late revival fell short of securing the victory that would have confirmed their place in the top flight for next summer.

Victory over Sheffield on Sunday will ensure their safety, but they will be looking anxiously tonight for the result of the match between Paris and Oldham, both of whom are also fighting to avoid the drop. One of these three will be down on Sunday night.

Castleford have never been out of rugby league's top division and they look too good to go down this time — but this has proved to be wishful thinking for many clubs in many sports.

Indeed, Warrington, only one place above the Tigers, were much the better team for long spells. When their defence did fail, Castleford let themselves down. A Chris Smith touchdown was ruled out because of a forward pass from Brad Davis and when Jason Flowers crossed the Warrington line he dropped the ball.

Only in the closing minutes when Warrington, 18 points ahead, relaxed, did the Tigers give the home team something to worry about.

The visiting supporters among the 6,000 holiday crowd left the ground chani-

ng defiantly. "Staying up," but they know that nothing is certain.

Warrington went in from after 10 minutes when a long crossfield kick by Lee Briers was not covered and Jonathan Roper had the simple task of placing his hand on the ball for the first four points.

Jason Ladden took advantage of the first lapse by Warrington's defence in the 11th minute, but by half-time a Briers penalty, followed by a dropped goal, had put Warrington 11-4 in front.

Eight minutes into the second half, Nigel Vaganua stretched that lead when the Castleford defence was exposed by a five-man handling move.

Those two missed chances by Smith and Flowers brought relief for Warrington who went further ahead with another Briers dropped goal and a try in the corner from Mark Forster, which Briers converted.

Jason Critchley and Chris Smith — with a 70-yard run — scored tries in the last eight minutes to bring Castleford back into the hunt, but time ran out, leaving them in the bottom three.

SCORES: Warrington: Tries: Roper, Vaganua, M. Forster, P. Shallice, L. Brier, G. Chivers, A. Smith, G. Morris, J. Hunt, T. Talbot, F. Southcombe, Sub: P. Wimpell, G. Murray, M. Hargrave, G. Evans.

CASTLEFORD: J. Flowers, B. Gay, J. Critchley, A. Vaganua, C. Smith, B. Davis, M. Forster, H. Mokal, P. Russell, M. Shaw, J. Jordan, L. Hargrave, S. Lunn, Sub: J. Sarachian, D. Ovi, L. Smith, T. Smith, Referee: J. Connolly.

Jackson's injury-time try reins in Broncos

LONDON Broncos made sure of second place in the Super League yesterday, despite dropping a point in a 28-28 draw against Halifax Blue Sox at The Stoop.

London, who had led 24-10 at one stage, were heading for both points until Michael Jackson, the Blue Sox second-row forward, scored an injury-time try which was converted by John Schuster. St Helens virtually assured

themselves of a top-four place with a 25-18 win over Leeds at Knowsley Road, but the match was overshadowed by the sending off of Bobbie Goulding after 29 minutes.

Goulding, stripped of the captaincy two weeks ago for disciplinary reasons, was sent off for the second time this season, for a high tackle on Jamie Mathieu, the Leeds prop, who received treatment for almost five minutes.

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- The winning company from each of the four regional 'Finals' will compete in the National Final at Royal Lytham & St Annes in November 1997 to be named as a Golf World Champion.
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SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

This is a good example of the logic involved in discarding correctly. It occurred in a Spring Foursomes match between teams captained by Bernard Teilscher and Ian Monahan. Monahan's team eventually won the event.

Dealer North	Love all	IMPs
♠ A Q 9 8 ♥ K J ♦ 10 2 ♣ J 10 7 6 3	♠ 7 8 ♥ 9 8 ♦ 9 8 7 6 5 4 ♣ A 9 8	♠ 7 8 ♥ 9 8 ♦ 9 8 7 6 5 4 ♣ A 9 8

S	W	N	S
3 NT	Pass	1 C	3 D
5 D	Pass	3 S	Pass
		5 H	All Pass

Contract: Five Hearts by South. Lead: four of diamonds.

Three and a half minutes into the match, the North-South cards after the hold were jump overall to Three. Diamonds made by my partner Brian senior on the East hand. The diamond lead went to the king and ace and declarer immediately started with five rounds of hearts. His failure to play a club meant he was likely to be missing the ace and therefore could have the king of spades. I passed the first test by discarding a diamond and a club.

Declarer next played a ruck to the queen and a ruck back to the king. Then he played out his last heart. I could see that he had ten hearts, three spades, six clubs, and the ace of diamonds. I was then in a position for the ace of clubs to beat the contract. But rather than come down to a ruck, he played a club.

For details of The Times Midland Private Banking National Bridge Challenge, call the organisers on 0181 942 9500.

Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

MILKY
a. A milk-driver
b. A milk-milk
c. A milkless cow

LAPIDOSE
a. A stone
b. A milk-milk
c. A milkless cow

MYRMIDON
a. A warrior ladyguard
b. A myrmidon
c. An assistant professor

Answers on page 42

KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Global entry

Over 2,000 entrants from 58 countries competed in the Mind Sports Olympiad which ended on Sunday at London's Royal Festival Hall. Many of Britain's top grandmasters were in action in the various chess sections. Here is a win by grandmaster Keith Arkell against the ex-British champion in the main chess event.

White: Matthew Sadler
Black: Keith Arkell
Mind Sports Olympiad, August 1997

Dutch Defence

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

Black to play. This position is from the game Best — Muir, Correspondence 1969.

Black has a fierce attack but needs to find a way to liberate his bishop on b7. He now achieves this in brilliant style. Can you see how?

Solution on page 42

Times writers reflect on the lessons of an Ashes series won by a fine Australia team

Spin dimension adds lustre to game's attraction

John Woodcock says Tufnell exploited pitch conditions at the Oval that would have been far more familiar to great left-armers of the past

The batsmen might not agree, but those who had bought tickets for the last two days of the Ashes series at the Oval in London did not know the keeper of the door, the man who would be the first to see the ball, did the heart good to see the ball spinning like a top in the air. It was a match that will be long remembered.

Produced for economy, the ship match, the same pitch would have been a disaster for the England selectors. It was too hard, too fast, too green. It was a pitch that was better than any other of those green pastures so beloved of the England selectors.

Tufnell bowled beautifully in the traditional style — the style that is of Colin Blythe and Wilfred Rhodes and Jack White and Jimmy Wardle. I never knew he could be so good. Mostly from under the wicket, he offered spin, control and flight. He reminded us of what the game is missing. It was through having unnumbered opportunities to exploit such conditions that the great slow left-armers of old achieved the same thing. They became the force that kept the game alive.

Mark Taylor's side will have a better idea now of why the 1950

Australians thought they did well if they killed 150 at the Oval when Laker and Lock were bowling. They were called upon to play a game with which they were unacquainted. We had a glimpse on Saturday of how and why England used to win many more Test matches than they lost. Either after rain or on pitches more like this last one, when there was grit for the orthodox spinner, the game had a dimension that has all but disappeared.

A friend in Adelaide who knows his cricket said before this summer series started that, despite the presence of Warne, England's likeliest way of recovering the Ashes would be by preparing pitches that turned. He was taking into account not only the fact that England should be able to field two useful spinners to Australia's one spinning superstar, but even more the quibus Australian batsmen experience against the turning ball. In their previous Test match on a turning pitch, against India in Delhi last October, they were bowled out cheaply twice, and it is several generations now since they themselves were strong in orthodox spin. You must not believe everything you read about the flawless career of the game in Australia.

For all this, I very much doubt



John Woodcock



Michael Atherton



Mark Taylor

whether Tufnell's presence in the first five Test matches this summer would have made any difference to their outcome. The pitches would have been as little use to him as they were to Croft, whose eight wickets in them cost 54 runs apiece. A good spell or two at the Oval could have done wonders for Croft's confidence and pushed his career forward, but no one could

have made a better partner for Tufnell in Australia's second innings than Caddick, one of the enigmas of the English game. For some time, Caddick, with that high action of his, has been potentially as good a bowler as Australia's McGrath. Knowing what represses him has been the problem. A sense of insecurity has been one theory and, if that is right,

nothing could be better devised to put him at his ease than his 24 wickets in five Tests against Australia. He said the victory on Saturday was like a dream come true, and I am sure it was.

The Ashes may have gone, but the psychological value of losing a series 2-3, as this one finished, rather than 1-4, as it so nearly did, is enormous. England had already

lost the Ashes when they won the last Test at the Oval in 1902, an imperishable victory achieved in just as thrilling a finish as Saturday's. "In its moral result," said Wisden of that great match, "it was very important." Ian Chappell felt the same when Australia won at the Oval in 1972, irrespective of the fact that they had already lost the Ashes. For the next five years, until Mr Packer came along, Australia did not look back. It need be no vain hope that Saturday's result will be of more than passing benefit to England.

In defeat, Mark Taylor was good sense itself. He is a splendid and impressive fellow, the disarmingly modest and well-adjusted leader of a very good, very hard but by no means invincible side. Michael Atherton, for his part, has gone off to ponder his future, and Mark Ramprakash to prepare, all being well, for an England career that will accord with his exceptional talent.

Coming in in the first over on Saturday, after Hussain had looked to be a victim of today's heavy bats — he couldn't get to a Warne long-hop in time to dispatch it where he wanted to — Ramprakash had everything to lose and everything to gain. With the ability to be England's answer to Australia's

Ricky Ponting, he was yet on the brink of the international wilderness. In the event, England could no more have done without his 48 runs than without the wickets of Tufnell and Caddick.

Informed opinion suggests that, despite this remarkable victory, Atherton may still relinquish his command. To him, the attractions of doing so must be obvious. After four wearing, sometimes controversial, often disheartening years in the job, why not let someone else bear the burden? But who?

Hussain's recent endorsement of the slogging doctrine is a bad augury, and to appoint Adam Hogg would be not unlike making Nasser Hamed chairman of the British Boxing Board of Control.

Hogg has yet to prove, anyway, that he is a good enough player. The second best answer might be for Stewart to take over for the time being, and for Russell to return behind the stumps. The best, though, would seem to be for Atherton to do another term, if not of four years, then of two.

Given Warne and McGrath, England, not Australia, would now hold the Ashes. It was not Atherton's captaincy that lost them.

Stewart can lead from the front in raising standards

By Alan Lee, Cricket Correspondent

THE management and preparation of the England team has been greatly improved this year. So, too, it is timely to note, has the playing standards. The problem is that playing standards have made no progress whatever and, in certain key areas, have actually regressed.

Although two Tests were won in an Ashes series for the first time since Mike Gatting's touring side took the series in 1986-87, only a blinkered patriot would dispute that the gulf between the quality of the teams was greater than the margin of 3-2.

England's wins came at either end of summer. Both were achieved by compelling cricket, but the first owed something to Australia's unpreparedness and the second to their subconscious habit of relaxing when a series is won. In the pivotal games of midsummer, Australia won three crushing victories.

One thing must be stressed. This is a formidable Australia side, fit to be compared with the best that they have fielded. Their collective ability and spirit commands the greatest admiration and it is no disgrace to lose to them. The shame for England has come in the manner of defeat, the reiteration of failings in technique and concentration that have long been identified and addressed, but not cured.

Far too many basic mistakes are made, some of them so elementary as to be embarrassing. The footwork and shot selection of the batsmen are frequently flawed and most of the bowlers find it impossible to adhere to a challenging line and length. As a team, England regularly promise more than they deliver, their performance crippled by a session or two of indiscipline.

Such inconsistency can

ly be blamed on captain or coach and neither man can entirely escape accountability, but it is more appropriately traced back to the standards of domestic cricket. In this arena, the best bowlers will bully their way to success, their inaccuracy going unpunished to a point where it becomes second nature to repeat it at the highest level. The batting is harder to fathom and the most worrying legacy of summer is that England, having set off with a settled top six, have ended it in disarray.

Heading a depressingly long list of misuses to emerge from the series is the form of Michael Atherton and Alec Stewart. These are England's senior batsmen, with almost 10,000 Test runs and 21 centuries between them. For the team to function well, they would ideally contribute around 800 runs to a six-Test series and share three hundreds. This summer, they aggregated barely 500 and neither made a century. Their careers will now take different directions.

Atherton is almost sure to stand down from the captaincy this week, largely to repair his batting and extend his career in Test cricket — the only sort of truly motivate him — for a further three years. Stewart may then be the recipient of the top job, enabling him to give up the burden of "keeping wicket." Both may bat better for the changes and England, with Jack Russell restored, could even look an improved side.

Whether Stewart, freed from wicketkeeping, would return once more to opening the innings is problematic. He and Atherton remain the best available pairing, but to renege them would recreate the recurring vacancy at No 3. In this, as in too much else,

England have ended the summer with more questions than when they started it.

Elsewhere, much the best batting has come from Graham Thorpe, though even he suffered two poor Tests and a mood swing that threatened his place. Thorpe, however, ended with a batting average of 50; nobody else averaged even 40. Butcher, Crawley and especially Hussain all had their moments, but the manner of their dismissal was often cause for concern.

Take the second innings at the Oval: Butcher missed a full toss from Mark Waugh and Hussain, falling backwards, cut a long hop from Shane Warne to cover. These were shots to be ashamed of and while England continue to play them, the priority of making competitive totals of 350-plus will never be attained.

Four times in the six games, England were bowled out in their first innings for fewer than 200. Only the freakish Test matches, such as that at the Oval, can be won from such a parlous start. England's other chronic difficulty is in accruing any runs to speak of from their lower order. On no fewer than seven occasions, their last five wickets were lost for fewer than 50. Four times, it was the last six.

The bowling suffered through injuries. This is nothing new, of course, and Australia were also disadvantaged at intervals. They did not, however, lose either of their principal bowlers, Warne and Glenn McGrath. England, already deprived of Dominic Cork, lost Darren Gough for the final two Tests and Dean Headley, who made a generally favourable impression, for the last.

Andy Caddick had a good series, allowing for one lapse



Atherton endures the agonies of the Ashes series, top and above left, in the joy of victory, right

Australia ready to have two captains

By Simon Wilde

THE Australian Cricket Board (ACB) is to treat its Test and one-day teams as separate entities and is prepared to appoint different captains, if necessary. This step has been taken as part of a five-year plan to ensure Australia are, in the words of Mal Speed, the ACB chief executive, "recognised universally as the leading cricket nation".

Although Australia retained the Ashes, they were beaten 3-0 in the Texaco Trophy and have lost 18 of 27 one-day matches since losing to Sri Lanka in the World Cup final. Denis Rogers, the ACB chairman, said winning the World Cup in 1999 was a "major short-term goal".

The change of policy will put further pressure on Mark Taylor. He has struggled for form in both types of game and has already stood down voluntarily from the one-day side twice this year — in South Africa and England.

Taylor is shortly to meet ACB officials, fuelling speculation that he may be close to announcing his retirement. If he goes, Steve Waugh is likely to inherit leadership of the Test side, but the board might want a younger man running the one-day team. Waugh, like Taylor, is 32. Speed said that ideally one person would lead both teams but that it was "appropriate the selectors are directed to select the specialists".

This approach makes sense because the volume of international cricket puts unreasonable strains on those who play every match. Taylor partly attributed Australia's defeat at the Oval to "dead-rubber syndrome", which might occur less often if players were fresher.

The ACB has put 15 more players on development contracts, giving them control of up to 37 in all. If England are serious about closing the gap, they would do well to heed these changes.

No dishonour in defeat by Taylor's men

It is fair to say that England did not do too badly. To lose 3-2 to Australia is as much as West Indies could manage last winter, and South Africa won two Tests down on their own turf earlier this year before relinquishing one. At least England are prepared to give the Aussies a contest over six Tests (although I believe that is still one too many). South Africa, claiming fixture congestion, will not play any of the "A list" teams over more than three.

It was no disgrace to lose to this team. To go down by only one Test when Australia were superior in every respect is something to consider, if not brag about. England gave them a game, which is more than they did in the previous four series. The players are entitled to think they are

making some progress, even if it has come "dropping slow".

In fast bowling, slow bowling, shot making, shot selection, ground fielding, wicket-keeping, catching, captaincy and above all, boldness, the men-in-green baggies held all the cards. Picasso spoke the truth when he described painting as the search for "liberty within order". Under Mark Taylor, the Australians have aspired to reach that mark, and largely succeeded. It is a considerable achievement.

Comparisons are odorous, as Arthur Daley might say, but let's have a go. This is certainly the best Australian team to come here since Ian Chappell brought Lifes, Thomson, Walker, Walters and his younger brother with him in 1973, after wallowing England the previous winter, and before overwhelming Clive Lloyd's West Indians.

That side was probably the most talented and combative of recent times. There is no Greg Chappell in today's team. (Mark Waugh's poor run was the most disappointing aspect of the series), but there was no Steve Waugh 20 years ago. Doug Walters, grand attacking player that he was, never

made a Test hundred in England on three tours. Ricky Ponting made one first go. You can draw a line through the contrasting merits of Rod Marsh and Ian Healy. Great wicketkeepers both, good batsmen and outstanding team men to boot, they lived up to the proud self-image of the Australian cricketer. Every team hopes for one, and Australia have found two in a generation. Bully for them,

As for Glenn McGrath, now surely the finest new-ball bowler anywhere, it would be a bit naughty to claim that he measures up to the great Lillee: nobody ever could. Of his kind, however, he is absolutely first rate and with Jason Gillespie growing into his supporting role, Australia once again have a pair to shake the world.

They have Shane Warne, too, which sticks a big candle on any cake. There is nothing new to say about him, other than to emphasise what a terrific boon he has been for cricket. Those ugly people who mocked him ought to be put in the stocks, and doused by water cannons. We are fast approaching the day when a test of cricket knowledge is applied to all spectators, and anybody who fails it is denied entry to Test matches. Riff-raff, out, out, out!

Three things stand out immediately in any consideration of Australian cricket: the ability to renew itself, the all-round authority of the captain, and the strength in depth. Stuart Law at Essex, and Darren Lehmann in Yorkshire, have been the outstanding batsmen of the county summer, and

neither apparently can get a sniff of Test cricket.

Defeated they may be, but if England fail to absorb the lessons their conquerors have imparted, they will be guilty of complacency. How preposterous to go off on a *jeu sans frontières* outing before the Headingley Test, when what they really needed was to practise bowling to fields, batting to occupy the crease, and holding catches. Bonding indeed! What utter nonsense.

During the past few years Australia have replaced the runs of Border and Boon, and the wickets of McDermott and Hughes. More than that, they have strengthened a team that was already impressive and when Michael Slater regains his place, as surely he will, they will head for the snow-capped heights beyond. One would think so, anyway.

They have played excellent cricket from the time Taylor and Blewett battled out the second innings at Edgbaston, to make England work for that initial victory. They have provided great entertainment, and left behind a train of special days to remember them by. For that, the game can only be richer.

England

Batting	M	NO	Runs	HS	Avg	100	50	Outs
G P Thorpe	211	2	453	108	50.33	1	3	8
N Hussain	211	0	431	207	39.18	1	3	8
M A Ealham	11	0	105	33	30.00	1	3	3
J P Crawley	5	0	243	83	30.37	1	3	3
S R Waugh	10	0	52	48	26.00	1	3	3
M A Butcher	510	0	254	87	25.40	1	3	8
A J Stewart	612	1	268	87	24.36	1	3	23
M A Atherton	312	1	267	77	25.36	1	3	23
B C Headley	12	0	30	28	15.00	1	3	1
A J Hogg	2	0	31	15	15.50	1	3	1
P J Martin	12	0	33	20	11.50	1	3	1
A R Caddick	2	0	55	26	9.83	1	3	1
D W Headley	6	0	18	22	6.75	1	3	1
R B Croft	2	0	76	24	9.57	1	3	1
A M Smith	1	0	4	4	4.00	1	3	1
D E Gough	1	0	12	12	12.00	1	3	1
D Gough	4	0	17	10	2.83	1	3	1
P C R Tufnell	12	0	1	1	0.50	1	3	1

Bowling

M	NO	Runs	HS	Avg	100	50	Outs
M E Waugh	24	7	16	1.60	11.6	1	1
G D McGrath	24	7	16	1.60	11.6	1	1
J N Gillespie	51	20	32	1.60	7.37	1	1
S R Waugh	24	7	16	1.60	11.6	1	1
S K Warne	23	10	27	1.60	7.36	1	1
P R Warne	12	28	25	1.60	5.49	1	1
M G Bown	3	0	1	0.33	1.14	1	1
S Young	8	3	13	0	1.50	1	1
S R Waugh	20	5	76	0	1.52	1	1

Tour averages

Batting	M	NO	Runs	HS	Avg	100	50	Outs
R T Ponting	812	0	571	127	69.44	2	2	7
M T G Ealham	1219	0	1091	194	57.42	4	2	7
S R Waugh	1310	0	934	114	57.42	4	2	7
P R Warne	5	0	242	56	48.40	1	2	2
J Langer	610	3	312	152	44.57	1	1	5
M E Waugh	1380	0	819	114	44.93	1	1	11
S P Jurek	5	1	182	71	40.50	1	2	4
G S Bower	1218	1	682	120	40.35	2	4	17
M G Bown	1218	0	682	120	40.35	2	4	17
M G Bown	1116	3	483	104	36.61	1	3	8
I A Healy	1216	4	407	83	38.91	1	1	304
M J Slater	5	0	139	47	13.87	1	3	3
S K Warne	1217	1	283	53	31.31	1	1	5
M S Kapur	10	3	56	17	11.20	1	3	1
B Bena	2	0	21	12	10.50	1	3	1

Bowling

M	NO	Runs	HS	Avg	100	50	Outs
S L M	35	11	113	8	14.12	4	27
P R Warne	183	49	520	29	18.57	4	49
S R Waugh	453	112	1154	67	20.24	10	4
G D McGrath	363	104	1012	49	20.65	8	2
J N Gillespie	186	43	882	29	23.86	7	27
M S Kapur	267	50	1010	38	23.86	7	27
M E Waugh	47	10	150	4	37.50	1	16
S Young	34	13	99	2	49.50	1	140
S R Waugh	108	17	485	9	59.38	1	11
M G Bown	152	24	606	11	35.09	7	13
S R Waugh	26	5	97	1	17.00	1	23
R T Ponting	3	0	8	2.67	0	0	4
A J Bichel	1	0	1	1.00	0	0	2
A G Bower	3	0	43	0	14.33	0	0
M T G Ealham	3	0	43	0	14.33	0	0
A G Bower	1	0	1	1.00	0	0	0

WED 27th AUGUST
DAY NIGHT
CRICKET AT HOVE
AUSTRALIA v ENGLAND
SUSSEX vs SURREY
TICKETS NOW
ON SALE
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RACING: BALDING RELEASES SON FOR WINNING RIDE ON SHAFT OF LIGHT IN AMATEURS' DERBY

Royal success aided by diplomacy

By Richard Evans
RACING CORRESPONDENT

THE Derby may be one of the few big races to have eluded the Queen, but yesterday the royal colours were carried to victory for the second successive year at Epsom in the Moet & Chandon Silver Magnum, known affectionately as "the Amateurs' Derby".

Making all the running in the capable hands of Andrew Balding, Shaft Of Light won by four lengths and, while the margin may not have matched the 11-length success of Arabian Story 12 months ago, the style of the triumph was no less impressive.

Shaft Of Light, who, along with Arabian Story, is trained by Lord Huntingdon at West



Shaft Of Light gives the Queen a second successive victory in the Moet & Chandon Silver Magnum at Epsom. Photograph: Julian Herbert / Allsport

Nap: MOVING PRINCESS (4.30 Ripon)
Next best: Perfect Felix (3.30 Ripon)

Peter Evans ripped right flyer (4-1) at Epsom yesterday and caught it with Shaft Of Light (100-30) for a near 21-1 double. Timekeeper (James Whitham) topped Lady Story (2-1) then gave Bobbydazzle (25-1) at Newcastle.

by Lord Huntingdon at West Baily, is a giant of a horse whose physique would put many steeplechasers to shame. Using his powerful stride, the grey had most of his 11 rivals in trouble approaching the downhill straight.

After racing prominently behind the leader throughout, Brandon Magic stayed on well to finish second, ahead of Dance So Suite — and thereby complete a famous family one-two. Brandon Magic is trained by Ian Balding, brother-in-law of Lord Huntingdon and father of Andrew, who earlier in the week had been due to ride for his father rather than his uncle, Lord Huntingdon.

The West Islesy trainer said: "Originally Luis Urbano, who won last year on Arabian Story, was going to ride for me but he broke his collarbone on

Tuesday. The only one of the amateurs to have ridden for me before was Andrew, but I was not sure whether he had a ride or not.

"I met my sister (Emma Balding) in Marks & Spencer on Friday, who said Andrew didn't have a ride. So I thought that was fine. Then I got a frantic phone call from her saying Andrew was due to ride Brandon Magic and there would be a major diplomatic incident if he was asked to ride Shaft Of Light."

Fortunately, good family relations were preserved as Ian Balding said his son might be pushed to do the necessary weight for Brandon Magic and, provided a suitable replacement could be found, Andrew would be released to ride his brother-in-law's top weight. "I rang the owner, who is in Scotland, and she was agreeable and, hopefully, tonight she is delighted."

A memorable afternoon for the West Islesy yard was rounded off perfectly when Present Situation, formerly owned by the Queen, was

given a peach of a ride by Aimee Cook to win the Rothmans Royals North South Challenge Series Handicap — and complete a 29-1 stable double.

While the Balding-Huntingdon clan dominated the day's feature race, the Dunlops fought out the finish in the Tiffany & Co Conditions Stakes. The soft-ground loving Winter Romance, trained by Ed Dunlop, was sent off favourite but had no answer to Arnd Albadu, sporting blinkers for the first time and

trained by his father, John. "He has been losing a bit of his zip and concentration so we thought we would put blinkers on him. They have worked and the ground helped as well," the Arundel trainer reported.

When Mark Johnston gave instructions yesterday morning to Darryl Holland on how to ride Gaelic Storm in the Heathorns Bookmakers Handicap, they were simple: "Go Like Stink" — or words to that effect.

Unfortunately putting such

advice into practice on the world's fastest five-furlong course is sometimes easier said than done. As Lady Sheriff and Kira fought for the early lead and were then joined by Cross The Border and Tuscan Dawn, Holland was rowing away several lengths adrift.

However, the furious early pace began to tell on the front-runners approaching the last furlong and Gaelic Storm stayed on resolutely to forge ahead inside the final 100 yards.

Eddery handed five-day ban

PAT EDDERY was banned for five days at Ripon yesterday after dropping his hands on Jazz Track and finishing third in the Grassington Maiden Stakes.

Eddery set the pace on the favourite but was headed a furlong out by Tycooness, who got on top inside the final 100 yards. Eddery took things easily in the last 50 yards and was caught and beaten a head for second by Carlsbrook.

He was found guilty of not riding out for the best possible placing and was banned from September 3 to 6 inclusive, and September 8. He will miss important meetings at York and Haydock Park.

William O'Connor and Chris Rutter were also given riding bans yesterday. O'Connor came under fire for his riding of First Village, the Jack Perry-trained juvenile, in the South Wales Argus Nursery at Chepstow. The

Irishman, who finished third, was suspended from September 3-6 inclusive after being found guilty of irresponsible riding during an incident two furlongs out.

Rutter was banned for four days after partnering Haroldon, first past the post in the SSFA Selling Stakes at Warwick. Haroldon hampered the second-placed Geostimation inside the final furlong after Rutter had switched the gelding to the "stands" rail. The move was judged careless by the stewards and the placings of the first two were reversed.

Rutter is suspended from September 3-6 inclusive.

In contrast, Frankie Denton — who himself received a five-day ban at Goodwood on Saturday — enjoyed a successful day, riding an 8-1 treble at Chepstow on Monsajen, Bin Rosie and Eleventh Duke. His victory on Bin Rosie was particularly fitting

as it came in the Frankie Denton Ton-Up Conditions Stakes.

The Tote reacted to Denton's good form by cutting the Italian from 7-4 on to 4-1 on the Jockeys' championship despite a forthcoming five-day suspension. Kieren Fallon, his chief rival, gained one victory, on Golden Dice, at Newcastle and was pushed out from 5-4 to 5-2, with Pat Eddery lengthened to 33-1.

A Newcastle-born owner celebrated an excellent Bank Holiday weekend as his horse, Bobbydazzle, sprang a 25-1 surprise in a race devised to commemorate a slice of Tyneside history.

New York-based Tony Dalton flew in specially to watch Bobbydazzle in action in the Newcastle Exhibition Ale Brandon Race. And the filly he bred did not let him down, winning by a neck from After The Rain in the £40,000-added nursery.

UTTOXETER

2.15 Poppy's Dream. 2.45 Blair Castle. 3.15 Henry's Port. 3.45 Couchant. 4.15 Mutual Agreement. 4.45 Royal Expression.

GOING: GOOD

2.15 UTTOXETER NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE (22.7/3. 2m 4 1/4 10yds) (8 runners)

1. P. GOLDBERGER (10.5) M. J. Ryan 10-10
2. P. GOLDBERGER (10.5) M. J. Ryan 10-10
3. P. GOLDBERGER (10.5) M. J. Ryan 10-10
4. P. GOLDBERGER (10.5) M. J. Ryan 10-10
5. P. GOLDBERGER (10.5) M. J. Ryan 10-10
6. P. GOLDBERGER (10.5) M. J. Ryan 10-10
7. P. GOLDBERGER (10.5) M. J. Ryan 10-10
8. P. GOLDBERGER (10.5) M. J. Ryan 10-10

3.15 PETER & LINDA DOUGLAS 25TH ANNIVERSARY NOVICES HURDLE (22.4/3. 2m) (8 runners)

1. HENRY'S PORT (10.5) M. J. Ryan 10-10
2. ADAM'S GUEST (10.5) M. J. Ryan 10-10
3. ADAM'S GUEST (10.5) M. J. Ryan 10-10
4. ADAM'S GUEST (10.5) M. J. Ryan 10-10
5. ADAM'S GUEST (10.5) M. J. Ryan 10-10
6. ADAM'S GUEST (10.5) M. J. Ryan 10-10
7. ADAM'S GUEST (10.5) M. J. Ryan 10-10
8. ADAM'S GUEST (10.5) M. J. Ryan 10-10

3.45 STREBEL BOILERS & RADIATORS HANDICAP HURDLE (22.4/3. 2m 11yds) (5 runners)

1. ADAM'S GUEST (10.5) M. J. Ryan 10-10
2. ADAM'S GUEST (10.5) M. J. Ryan 10-10
3. ADAM'S GUEST (10.5) M. J. Ryan 10-10
4. ADAM'S GUEST (10.5) M. J. Ryan 10-10
5. ADAM'S GUEST (10.5) M. J. Ryan 10-10

2.45 ST MOWEN HANDICAP CHASE (22.4/3. 2m 5yds) (5 runners)

1. ADAM'S GUEST (10.5) M. J. Ryan 10-10
2. ADAM'S GUEST (10.5) M. J. Ryan 10-10
3. ADAM'S GUEST (10.5) M. J. Ryan 10-10
4. ADAM'S GUEST (10.5) M. J. Ryan 10-10
5. ADAM'S GUEST (10.5) M. J. Ryan 10-10

4.15 WELLMAN PLC VINCENOS HANDICAP CHASE (22.4/3. 2m 11yds) (5 runners)

1. ADAM'S GUEST (10.5) M. J. Ryan 10-10
2. ADAM'S GUEST (10.5) M. J. Ryan 10-10
3. ADAM'S GUEST (10.5) M. J. Ryan 10-10
4. ADAM'S GUEST (10.5) M. J. Ryan 10-10
5. ADAM'S GUEST (10.5) M. J. Ryan 10-10

4.45 NORTHERN RACING HANDICAP HURDLE (22.7/3. 2m 4 1/4 10yds) (5 runners)

1. ADAM'S GUEST (10.5) M. J. Ryan 10-10
2. ADAM'S GUEST (10.5) M. J. Ryan 10-10
3. ADAM'S GUEST (10.5) M. J. Ryan 10-10
4. ADAM'S GUEST (10.5) M. J. Ryan 10-10
5. ADAM'S GUEST (10.5) M. J. Ryan 10-10

Newcastle

Going: good
2.20 (7) 1. Sello (D Wright, 12-2) 2. For Your Eyes Only (11-2) 3. Kipling (11-2) 4. Sello (D Wright, 12-2) 5. Kipling (11-2) 6. Sello (D Wright, 12-2) 7. Kipling (11-2) 8. Sello (D Wright, 12-2) 9. Kipling (11-2) 10. Sello (D Wright, 12-2) 11. Kipling (11-2) 12. Sello (D Wright, 12-2) 13. Kipling (11-2) 14. Sello (D Wright, 12-2) 15. Kipling (11-2) 16. Sello (D Wright, 12-2) 17. Kipling (11-2) 18. Sello (D Wright, 12-2) 19. Kipling (11-2) 20. Sello (D Wright, 12-2) 21. Kipling (11-2) 22. Sello (D Wright, 12-2) 23. Kipling (11-2) 24. Sello (D Wright, 12-2) 25. Kipling (11-2) 26. Sello (D Wright, 12-2) 27. Kipling (11-2) 28. Sello (D Wright, 12-2) 29. Kipling (11-2) 30. Sello (D Wright, 12-2) 31. Kipling (11-2) 32. Sello (D Wright, 12-2) 33. Kipling (11-2) 34. Sello (D Wright, 12-2) 35. Kipling (11-2) 36. Sello (D Wright, 12-2) 37. Kipling (11-2) 38. Sello (D Wright, 12-2) 39. Kipling (11-2) 40. Sello (D Wright, 12-2) 41. Kipling (11-2) 42. Sello (D Wright, 12-2) 43. Kipling (11-2) 44. 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SWIMMING

Masterful Popov strikes stylish blow for purists

FROM CRAIG LORD IN SEVILLE

LIKE terrors tearing and tormenting their kills, the technicians wielded a lethal weapon in a victory of skill over strength at the 23rd European championships, which ended here on Sunday. Alexander Popov, Agnes Kovacs and Emiliano Brembilla will challenge for world titles in Perth, Australia, in January and each proved at the San Pablo pool that while strength can propel you so far in swimming, there is no substitute for technical brilliance.

This was a championship for the purist. Popov has now a record 15 European championship gold medals. In retaining his 50 metres and 100 metres freestyle titles and helping Russia to two relay victories, the 25-year-old Olympic champion provided the first sight of the new technique that he and his coach, Gennadi Touretski, have been working on. They call it the kayak principle, in which the swimmer rolls on the bow waves before him in a perpetual motion that suffers no "dead zone" or break in stroke pattern, like the continuous propulsion that is seen in kayaking, where one oar is always at the start of the pull phase as the other is starting the recovery phase above the water.

Kovacs, 16, from Budapest, has a perfect Hungarian breaststroke, which involves a high head and hand recovery that helps to plunge the swimmer into a long glide, as if every stroke were almost a dive, while the arm pull is deep and wide to maximise the pulling surface of hands and arms. The technique, in which the swimmer looks as though he or she is leaping over a barrel, has helped Kovacs to two European records, plus titles in Seville over 100 and 200 metres, this year and

taken her to within a whisker of the world record over 200 metres. That could come in Perth.

Brembilla, 19, was the bane of Great Britain at the championships, defeating both the nation's Olympic medal-winner of last year, Paul Palmer, in the 400 metres, and Graeme Smith, in the 1,500 metres. Worse for Britain is the fact that Brembilla's technical brilliance has taken him into waters uncharted by Palmer and Smith. The Italian holds the fastest times in the world this year over both distances.

Nevertheless, the British team had a good championship, capped by the two titles won by Palmer, in the 200 metres freestyle and the men's 4 x 200 metres freestyle relay, of which Palmer was a part. In terms of medals, it was the nation's fourth-best result since the championships were first hosted in Budapest in 1926. Twenty of the squad achieved qualifying times for Perth and 20 swimmers made 16 finals.

There were national records for four relay teams. Jaime King and Sarah Price, while Mark Foster won a silver

medal behind Popov in the 50 metres freestyle and Stephen Parry a bronze in the 200 metres butterfly.

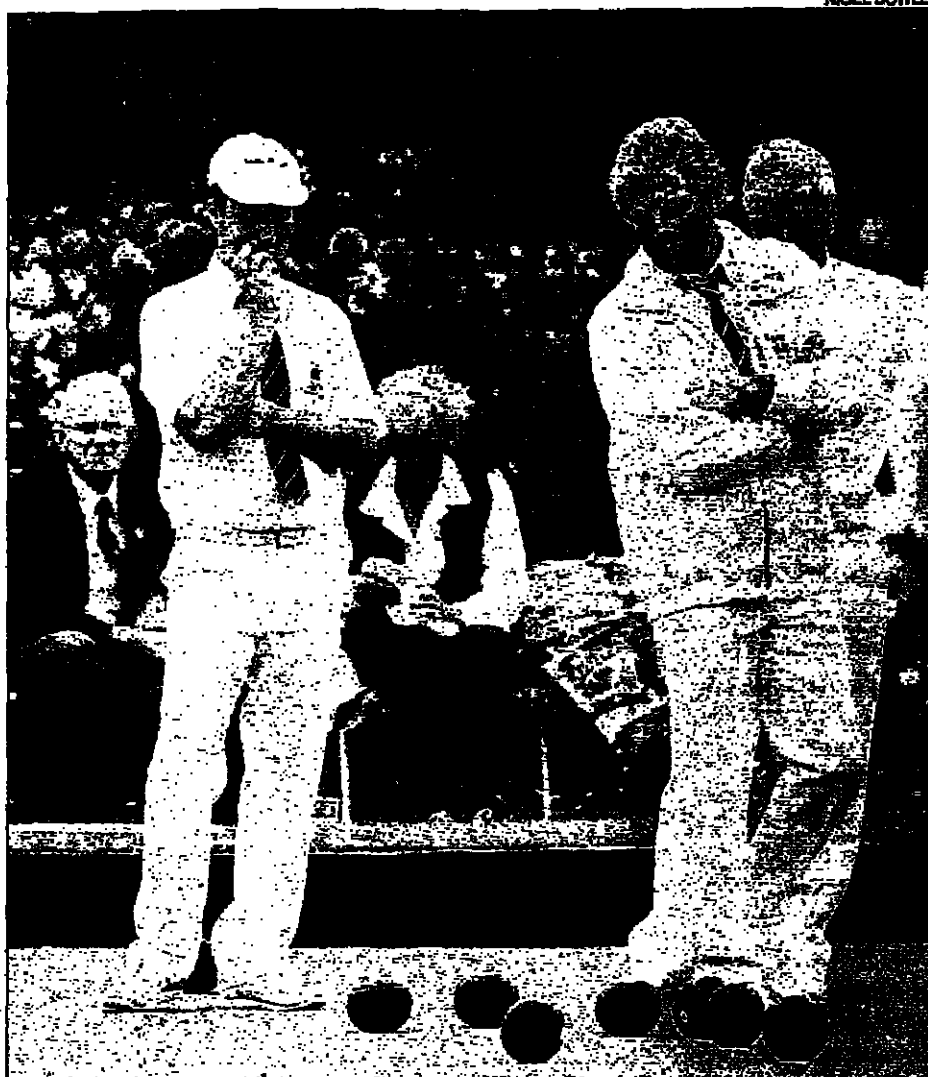
Britain finished sixth on the swimming medal table in Seville, behind four nations and Michelle Smith, the Irishwoman, who, despite winning two gold medals and two silver, is not the swimmer that she was last year, when she won three gold medals and one bronze at the Olympic Games in Atlanta. Her highlight was breaking two minutes over 200 metres freestyle to become European champion. Her winning time of 1m59.93sec ranked her No 3 in the world this year in an event that she had not raced at an international championship before. She will not, however, call her "winning formula", so questions about how Erik de Bruin, with no swimming coaching experience, has moulded his wife into a world-beater will remain.

Istanbul will stage the 1999 championships and there will be another less than a year later. The European Swimming League (LEN), in an effort to compete with the new calendar of Fina, the world governing body, is shifting its event from odd to even years. In 2000, therefore, there will be a World Cup, world and European short-course championships, European long-course championships and an Olympic Games.

The news was greeted with the kind of wide-eyed hysteria that the Channel swimmer feels when he lands at Dover to hear his coach utter: "No, no, no, it won't do at all — do another lap..." Financial inducements may also be offered to persuade swimmers to attend, but in this poker game with Fina, the winner will take all and European swimmers could well be the losers.

MEDAL TABLE

	G	S	B
Germany	8	4	7
Russia	7	3	0
Italy	2	3	0
Ireland	2	2	1
Great Britain	2	2	0
Hungary	2	1	1
Spain	2	1	0
Slovakia	2	1	0
Sweden	1	3	2
France	1	2	3
Denmark	1	0	2
Ukraine	0	5	2
Finland	0	3	0
Poland	0	1	1
Israel	0	1	0
Czech Republic	0	0	3
Belgium	0	0	2
Belarus	0	0	1
Romania	0	0	1



Allcock, right, faces the prospect of defeat in the national pairs championship yesterday

Surprise defeat for Allcock

BY DAVID RHYS JONES

ALTHOUGH the field for the English Bowling Association national pairs championship at Worthing, which had been hailed as one of the strongest for years, looked distinctly diluted by lunchtime yesterday, it was nothing to do with the rain that interrupted play for an hour.

Among the favourites who fell in the first round were Tony Allcock, the world singles champion, and his Cheltenham, Gloucestershire and England colleague, Andy Wills, and the 1995 champions, Mel Biggs and Steve Warren, who were in the Swindon Westcoast quartet that won the four title last week.

Allcock was relieved when play was suspended, but complained about the timing of the decision. "The greens were

virtually unplayable several minutes before we were actually called off and they were actually beginning to 'improve', he said during the break. "That said, we were glad to take time out and are hoping that things will go our way when we return."

The Cheltenham pair dropped two thirds and a four to Peter Harlow and Richard Haydon, of Wymondham Dell, and were 13-6 down when play was curtailed. On the restart, however, they dropped five more shots to trail 18-6. They recovered to score 11 shots to three on the next nine ends and, at 21-7, went into the last end needing four shots to tie. Wills clustered his bowls around the jack, but Harlow saved the day for Norfolk, who scored a single, and won 22-17.

Allcock was later disappointed to learn that Haydon would be unable to complete the course, because he flies to Puertoventura on a pre-planned family holiday today. "He played a career game, as if he had nothing to lose," Allcock said. "I don't think it's fair on his county, whom he is representing, or on the people he has beaten to get through to Worthing." David Tinsey, the 1996 Wymondham Dell dub champion, will replace Haydon, but will play at lead.

Biggs and Warren were defeated, 20-19, by Bryan Taylor and Tony Kempster, of Northumbria, while Mike and Robert Newman, a formidable father and son combination from Berkshire, lost 23-12 to Bill Hamilton and Stuart Thomas, from Erdington Court.

BOWLS

Hawes and Price on course for golden start

BY GORDON DUNWOODIE

KATHERINE HAWES and Mary Price, of England, and the trio of Kathy Pearce, Sarah Mansbridge and Betty Morgan from the hosts, Wales, are poised to claim the first gold medals of the Atlantic Rim championships when the pairs and triples events end in Llandudno, Wales today.

Hawes and Price, playing together at international level for the first time, put aside the disappointment of Sunday's defeat by Ireland and Guernsey to beat the Welsh pair, Nina Shipperley and Rita Jones, 25-16, and Doreen Cressley and Marlene Cleunin of Canada, 22-10 to leave them two points clear at the top of the pairs table with just the matches against Argentina and the United States to come today.

Ireland's three-time world champions, Philis Nolan and Margaret Johnson, are leading the chasing pack, despite losing three of their opening six matches. They stretched their winning run to five with wins over Argentina, 30-8, and the United States, 35-6.

Jean and Angie Simon, of Guernsey, are third on the same points mark as Ireland after losing valuable ground when they unexpectedly lost 15-24 to the Canadians yesterday morning. But they boosted their medal prospects later in the day by recovering to beat Argentina 22-12.

Kathy Houston, Susan Kelly and Joyce Lindores of Scotland, threw away their gold medal chance in the triples when they lost 12-22 to Namibia yesterday afternoon. Trailing 12-13 with just three ends to play, the Scots dropped a five and two doubles to be well beaten.

That result opened the door for Wales, who had beaten Jean Baker, Gill Fitzgerald and Shirley Page, of England, 17-13 in the morning. The Welsh responded with a runaway 43-5 victory over Holland to go top of the table.

CYCLING

Obree may be denied world track comeback

BY PETER BRYAN

GRAEME OBREE, twice the 4,000 metres world pursuit champion and twice holder of the world one hour record, may not be given a ride in the world track championships which start in Perth, Australia tomorrow.

Those close to the British team yesterday suggested that he may only gain a place in the pursuit squad for the qualifying round on Friday should any of his colleagues — Bryan Steel, Matthew Illingworth, Jon Clay or Rob Hayles — suffer a dip in form before then. Obree is in Australia as one of five nominations for the pursuit, completing his return to competition after his "temporary retirement" earlier this year.

The Scot's career has been marked by controversy since, as an amateur in 1993, he broke the hour record in Norway on a home-made bike and went on to win the world pursuit title that year.

Obree turned his back on the sport after a virus infection which left him unplaced in the pursuit at the Olympic Games in Atlanta, in which he was the favourite. Lacking a lottery grant this year, he decided to give priority to developing his own cycle accessory manufacturing business.

Chris Boardman, the British world pursuit champion and recordholder, is not defending his title, preferring to concentrate on road racing.

Yvonne McGregor remains the team's best medal hope after her victory over the Olympic and world pursuit champion, Antonella Bellutti, of Italy, in the Athens round of the World Cup.

British riders are involved in five events during the opening day of the championships on the 250-metre indoor track tomorrow.

The International Cycling Union has said that blood tests to trace the banned drug erythropoietin will be used for the first time at a world championship.

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The Chambers of Mr Philip Richards at 30 Park Place, Cardiff, are pleased to announce the addition of five new members of Chambers from the 1st September 1997. Mr Keith Bush (formerly of 33 Park Place) having also joined in April 1997.

The new members are:

Miss Marian Lewis (formerly of 9 Park Place)

Mr Rhodri Williams (also of 4 Kings Bench Walk)

Miss Shamsul Jayamathas, Mr Andrew Jones, Mr Thomas Williams

(having all successfully completed pupillage at 30 Park Place)

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Guilt of an accessory

Soon the highest appellate court will deliver the reasoning behind its recent decision, in the same field of law, permitting the release of Philip English. How far the Lords will make the rules less severe in order to admit fewer accomplices to the category "murderer" will be watched keenly.

● *Dr Slapper is Director of the Open University Law programme.*

Sporting bodies need a referee

● The author is a practising barrister and a Fellow at All Souls College, Oxford. This is an edited version of a lecture to the Administrative Law Bar Association and the Bar Sports Law Group.

The partners thank the many clients and professional colleagues who have wished them well in their respective new ventures.

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Swept up in the low pay trap

Alison Clarke
looks at the role
biology plays in
low-earning
women being
denied statutory
maternity pay

There are about two million women — or roughly 8.5 per cent of the UK workforce — who do not have to pay national insurance contributions.

Lucky them, you might think. But the only reason they are exempt is because their weekly pay is so low that it falls short of the lower-earnings limit. The result is that they are ineligible to claim statutory maternity and sick pay (SMP). Such women may end up without any money during their maternity leave — just when they need it most.

Yet the European Court of Justice said in a recent case: "The amount payable [of maternity pay] could not be so low as to undermine the purpose of maternity leave, namely the protection of women before and after giving birth." So how does that decision square with women who receive none at all?

Deborah Banks decided to find out. A part-time checkout operator at Tesco since early 1994, she left towards the end of that year to go on maternity leave and asked her employers for statutory maternity pay. Because her weekly earnings averaged £55.93 for the relevant period after an absence from work, she was told that under the rules laid down by the Government, she was ineligible for SMP. To qualify, she needed to hit the lower-earnings limit, which at that time was £57 a week.

In the case that she subsequently brought against Tesco and the Secretary of State for Social Security, Mrs Banks argued that the company was in breach of domestic legislation and the Government in breach of Article 119 of the Treaty of Rome.

The tribunal agreed that, under the Equal Pay Act, it was directly discriminatory for male staff at Tesco to be granted three days' paternity leave under their contracts, when she got nothing. Joanna Wade, solicitor for the Maternity Alliance, which is repre-



You may laugh, but for some part-time workers such as cleaners, low pay and lack of rights can be anything but funny

senting Mrs Banks, explains: "The tribunal has declared that Mrs Banks has the right to a contract no less favourable than that of a man, and that she was therefore entitled to the same benefits as men, irrespective of earnings, on a pro rata basis."

But the tribunal did not accept her second argument that the social security rules on statutory maternity pay were discriminatory against women and contrary to Article 119 of the Treaty of Rome. Mrs Banks tried to persuade the tribunal that by failing to pay her SMP, Tesco had made an unlawful deduction from her wages, which amounted to direct sex discrimination.

So why did this argument fail?

Peter Thompson of Dibb Lupton Alsop, solicitor for Tesco, comments: "Under existing UK legislation, female claimants are required to compare their treatment directly with that of their male counterparts. As Mrs Banks was pregnant, and, as a biological fact, men can never be pregnant, this direct comparison can never take place." No male comparison, no discrimination. Not surprisingly, Mrs Banks is to appeal against the decision, which contradicts other European judgments.

She also intends to mount a further challenge to the social security rules. Using figures which show that there are four times as many women as men below the

lower-earnings limit, Mrs Banks will argue that the rules for SMP are indirectly discriminatory against women.

The Maternity Alliance, meanwhile, has been putting out feelers to the new Government about abolition of the lower-earnings limit for SMP, and hopes to meet the minister in the early autumn for talks.

A government spokesman said: "The issue of SMP is one that will be considered in the fundamental review of social security that is going on. We are still waiting for the further hearing at the tribunal about the specific issues of indirect discrimination."

Whatever happens at the next

stage, Mrs Banks has got the bit between her teeth, and says that she is prepared to take the matter to Europe, if necessary, to prevent other women from being caught in the same low pay trap.

"I am not doing this for me," she says. "I am doing it for the thousands of women who do not get maternity pay, just because their wages are too low."

If the European Court decides in her favour, the Government has estimated that it would cost an extra £25 million a year in SMP. Not an insignificant sum, but then the price of equality has never been low.

● The author is assistant solicitor at Jacksons in Middlesbrough.

Another way to run the country...

Lib-Lab liaison offers shift in political culture

The recent creation of a joint Labour-Liberal Democrat Cabinet committee is a significant constitutional innovation. It enables a smaller party to co-operate in government without being bound by the doctrine of collective Cabinet responsibility that is a fundamental feature of British constitutional practice.

Britain has an adversarial political culture. Unlike other European Union members that have proportional electoral systems, it is not culturally or institutionally accustomed to co-operation between parties. Indeed, collective Cabinet responsibility has meant that, other than full-blown coalitions in times of national emergency, it has been almost impossible to contemplate parties working together in government.

The first break in this tradition was the 1977-78 Lib-Lab pact. Under this, there was a *de facto* shared responsibility for keeping in office a Labour Government that had lost its majority in the House of Commons and depended on Liberal votes. The only institutional structure was a non-Cabinet consultative committee for parliamentary business. The Liberal numbers in the House would not have supported a full coalition structure, even if one had been offered.

The difficulties of that arrangement clearly showed the need to find a device to preserve the independence of the smaller party: it had, in effect, to safeguard its identity, or risk being elbowed aside in a subsequent non-proportional general election where the choice would be perceived as being for the Government (meaning the larger party) or against it (a party which had not been involved with government).

The device had to avoid the doctrine of collective Cabinet responsibility. And so, a little-known constitutional precedent came into play.

As Peter Hennessy pointed out in his 1994 inaugural lecture as

Professor of Contemporary History at Queen Mary and Westfield College, London, the Cabinet is, by historical development and under Britain's unwritten constitution, the executive committee of the Privy Council. Professor Hennessy illustrated this by citing how, during the Attlee Labour Government of 1945-50, Winston Churchill had raised matters of defence policy he wished to discuss privately. Attlee set up a Cabinet committee of senior ministers and members of the Conservative Opposition for this purpose. The committee operated under the aegis of the Privy Council, of which all concerned were members.

That precedent obviously derived much from the wartime Coalition Government. In 1997, it had attractions for a smaller party, such as the Liberal Democrats, wondering how it should respond to an offer of co-operation from a party of government with an overall majority that would render a full-blown coalition inappropriate.

A joint Cabinet committee, working together solely on agreed topics (and above all the constitutional reform programme agreed to by Robin Cook and Robert Maclennan in the run-up to the 1997 general election), would leave the Liberal Democrats free to disagree with other policies of a Labour Government, and not surrender its distinct identity. And so it was. The outcome is obviously uncertain, but the concept of a cross-party Cabinet committee has proved viable in terms of constitutional law and precedent, and is at least a stepping stone on the path to a less adversarial political culture.

PHILIP GOLDENBERG

● The author, a partner with the City solicitors S.J. Berwin, has a long-standing interest in constitutional law, and was a Liberal Democrat parliamentary candidate in the last general election.

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Meat traders team up for joint operation

BY BRIAN COLLETT

A NETWORK of organic meat traders in Devon and Cornwall has been set up to sell to supermarkets and other outlets across Britain.

By operating as a group, members of the South West Organic Livestock Producers will be able to market their goods more effectively, use a common brand and invest in refrigerated lorries.

Forming networks of this kind is part of the campaign of the two counties' training and enterprise council and Business Link to encourage trading outside the area by local companies — much needed because the region is one of the poorest in Britain.

Research last year showed, however, that 85 per cent of business by Devon and Cornwall companies was done inside the two counties. Sally Greenhalgh, the Devon & Cornwall Tec's enterprise director, said: "That is a particularly high figure, and is partly because we are a peninsula."

Besides building trading networks, the Tec operates a programme through the Business Link to enable companies to sell elsewhere in Britain.

The programme, called the Business Support Initiative, applies to companies with at least five employees but is soon to be extended to forward-looking micro-businesses in the area.

One of its more unusual successes has been to help Crêpe Cuisine, of Penzance, to sell crêpes to France.

David Askham finds two enthusiasts who have hit the right note with students from far and wide

Students travel from all over the United Kingdom and overseas to attend violin-making courses in Cambridge, run by Juliet Barker and her son, Christopher Beament. It is not uncommon for students in London to make the 108-mile round trip just for an afternoon and evening class. But most spend a week or more learning the skills, often returning annually until they finish making a violin, viola or cello.

For business reasons Miss Barker retains her maiden name. She comes from a musical family and met her husband, Sir James Beament, at orchestral rehearsals. Sir James, a retired university professor, has recently completed a new book, *The Violin Explained*, published by Oxford University Press.

Encouraged by her mother, Miss Barker fell in love with violins and, at an early age, decided to learn how to make them. She was helped by J & A Beare in London to obtain a student place at the famous violin-making school in Mittenwald where she studied for three years. This opportunity was comparatively rare for a woman in



Juliet Barker and Christopher Beament pass on their violin-making skills to around 200 students a year

those days. Returning to Cambridge to look after her ailing father, Miss Barker continued to develop her skills and, in 1960, she started to run violin-making classes at the local technical college. Eventually her success outweighed the available facilities and she found her own premises in 1985.

Her son joined the business seven years ago. Initially, Christopher lent general support and was particularly useful assisting during busy teaching periods. But he grew

to love the work and learnt from his mother how to make and repair violins. He is currently making a replica Gagliani violin for a musician who wished to preserve his original instrument purely for concert work. The replica will be used for rehearsals.

Approximately 60 per cent of business turnover comes from teaching around 200 students a year; 10 per cent from making new instruments; and 30 per cent from repair work, an essential

service for musicians in Cambridge and beyond.

The Cambridge Violin Makers advertise for new students once a year in the specialist journal *The String*. All their students are true amateurs, which is uniquely British. European violin makers frown on the practice of teaching amateurs, which accounts for the business's strong appeal to overseas students.

Juliet Barker is on 01223 411071.

Risks in franchising higher than expected

BY RODNEY HOBSON

FRANCHISING, widely regarded as the safest way to start a new business, has come under fire in two separate reports. Both claim that survival rates are much lower than previously believed.

Stuart Price, a manufacturing, retail and distribution expert at KPMG Management Consulting, says that 50 per cent of franchisors withdraw from the market in the first five years. After ten years the figure is 70 per cent, he says.

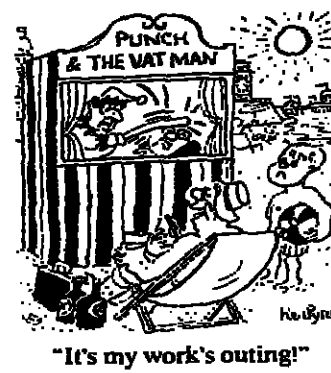
Those findings are supported by I-F Consulting, which found that only 55 per cent of businesses franchising in 1986 survived to 1992, and only 45 per cent to 1997. It says that the figures are only marginally better than those for independent businesses.

Mr Price argues that franchising is not as successful as many commentators in the industry believe because of an "inherent paradox" in the approach of franchisors to the franchisees.

He says: "The franchise industry places excessive stress on uniformity and conformity, an approach that is out of touch in today's competitive business market. How can franchisors enforce standardisation, rather than encourage innovation, and also expect fewer failures than independent businesses? No one would expect a company that was prevented from using new ideas and entrepreneurial instinct to survive long."

Mr Price reckons that standardisation produces short-term benefits but innovation is critical to keep ahead of competitors. He says: "Franchisees are an underutilised source of ideas for new products. They tend to be entrepreneurial in outlook and, as they are in direct contact with the customer on a daily basis, they are able to provide invaluable feedback on needs and demands of their customers." He cites McDonald's KFC and Burger King as franchises that have developed successful new products as a result of listening to franchisees.

I-F has found that fast print retail and restaurants have high growth and high survival rates. Health, beauty, fashion and fabrics are the high-risk areas.



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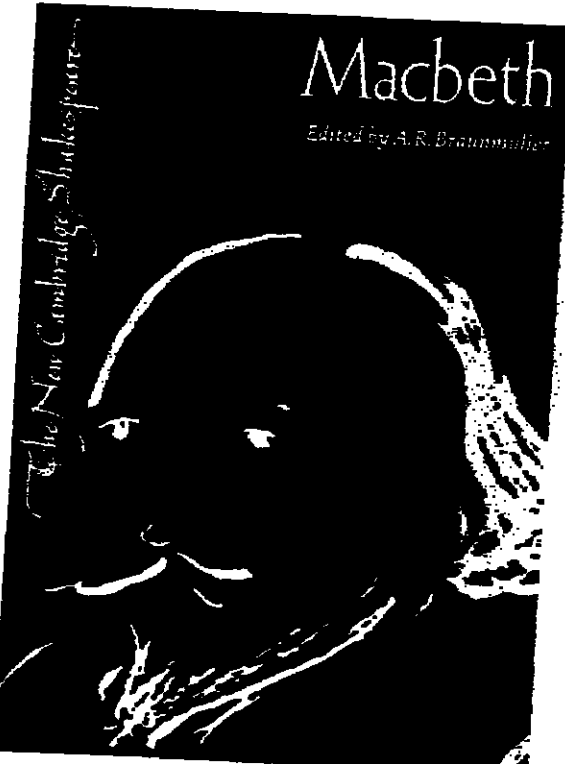
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Job no.	Company	Phone	City	State	Est. No.	Est. Date	Comp.	Price	Qty.	Est. No.	Est. Date	Comp.	Price	Qty.	Est. No.	Est. Date	Comp.	Price	Qty.
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES																			
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Computer professionals tap into a boom in City salaries

Adam Jones says IT workers are exploiting the scarcity of their skills

SALARIES paid to computer professionals in the City are rocketing and the dearth of suitable staff is likely to force financial companies to offer new recruitment perks.

Banks, fund managers and insurers are being hit by the increasing pay demands of information technology (IT) workers, who are understandably exploiting the scarcity of their skills.

The demand for IT staff in the City has been inflated by the millennium bug, as well

as preparation for the Stock Exchange's new electronic trading system and monetary union.

Organic growth in fund management, the creation of supermarket banks and the demand for derivatives have also been catalysts.

DP Connect, an IT recruitment consultancy, said computer specialists in the City

have enjoyed rises of up to 27 per cent in the last year. The typical salary of certain database administrators has gone up from about £43,000 to £50,000. Internet project managers can expect about £50,000, compared with £42,000 a year ago.

Unix systems administrators will be looking at about £42,000 now, compared with

£36,000. Windows NT support engineers and analysts will command £38,000 now, compared with £30,000. Jan Stevens, of DP Connect, said: "More and more we see the words 'salary negotiable'."

Temporary contract workers are in an even stronger position. Summers, an IT contract agency, said programmers in the finance

world can earn as much as £45 an hour. The client company has to pay an agency fee on top of that, anything from 13 per cent to 35 per cent.

Jackie Linkson, a director, said an analyst programmer would have been earning about £30 an hour two years ago. She said: "The companies are really stuck. They have to have somebody to

run their computer systems. Their salaries have just gone up horrendously. They're going to go up even more."

One IT chief at a major fund management house said: "There's a shortage of good IT people in finance."

He said it was difficult to retain permanent staff when they realise they can earn substantially more as a contractor. Having too many temporary staff then leads to its own problems.

He said the number of IT staff had increased from about 45 to 60 over the past couple of years. The increase would have been much bigger were it not for the company's luck in avoiding the millennium bug problem, which affects computers at

the end of 1999. It is rumoured that one fund manager has 40 to 50 people working on that specific problem alone.

One of the solutions to the scramble for good IT staff is a better all-round employment package, said one management consultancy that tracks IT issues in industry.

The consultancy said these could include giving more autonomy to IT workers, and beefing up training provision so that skills are updated.

Pointers to the top spot

By Jon Ashworth

THE chief executives of the 20 most admired UK companies are better educated, have more international experience, and are more likely to have climbed the internal career ladder, new research has found.

Graduates of Oxford and Cambridge have the edge on rivals, according to NB Selection, the recruitment consultant, which lists Tesco, Marks & Spencer and Cadbury Schweppes among the UK's 20 most admired companies in 1996.

Overseas experience gives senior managers a wider perspective and enables them to be more strategic in their thinking, according to Dr Elisabeth Marx, director of NB Selection's psychological assessment practice. Internal appointments reduced the risk of boardroom rifts due to poor chemistry.

Dr Marx said: "The factors that most clearly differentiate this group are the international experience and internal promotion. Internationally experienced executives are more likely to take a global perspective. Internally appointed chief executives may present less of a risk in terms of adapting to the company culture."

Analysing FTSE-100 companies, it tracked the emergence of a new generation of chief executives. The youngest, aged 39 to 45, formed a "supergroup", typified by greater career diversity, overseas experience, and better education.

Ministers pledge cash for revival of rail links

By Fraser Nelson

THE Government is ready to give the green light to a string of railway reconstruction projects that would reconnect some of the towns which lost their train station in the Beeching cuts of 30 years ago.

Transport ministers, who last week launched the Government's consultative document on transport policy, have indicated that they are prepared to deliver the extra funds to make the work possible.

A waiting list of 44 reopenings has been drawn up by the Railway Development Society, a pressure group that identifies which new rail routes could take the most pressure off roads.

Of these, Railtrack has also lent its support to about ten, which have the backing of local authorities and the train operating companies.

Almost all of the routes still exist in a mothballed condition, and are used by cyclists and walkers. They would need only a few miles of extra track to be laid to reconnect them with live local networks.

Railtrack, which has promised to spend £16 billion on infrastructure improvements, is supporting proposals that it considers to have a strong commercially viable case. These include a connection from Penrith to Keswick in the Lake District, Braintree to Colchester, Essex, and Uckfield to Lewes in East Sussex. National Express, which owns the ScotRail train operator, has also shown interest in relaying the line to the university town of St Andrews in Fife.

Other possible reopenings include reconnecting Northampton to the Midland Main Line and opening a new commuter line that would connect Cardiff to Senghennydd and Aberdwr, both Mid Glamorgan.

A new freight line has also been proposed to carry timber between Kielder Forest in Northumbria and saw mills in Carlisle along a 32-mile track that has been kept open by the Ministry of Defence. This proposal has been supported by Railtrack and EWS, the freight-operating company.

If the ten most viable recon-



The way we were: passengers alight at Bassenthwaite Lake station in 1959 on the old Cockerthwaite-Keswick-Penrith line

structions go ahead, they would trigger about £400 million of construction work and create up to 2,000 jobs.

Reconnections are likely to follow the formula set by the proposed Oxford to Cambridge rail link, where the bulk of the work is done by train operators, local authorities and Railtrack. The Department of Transport said that reopenings were likely to be completed under the auspices of the proposed National Rail Authority, which would have funds to take a strategic overview of rail travel across the country.

Nat Taplin, head of the

Railway Development Society, said that the creation of a new rail authority would deliver a significant boost to the prospects of line reopening.

Mr Taplin went on: "One of the problems that we are all facing is the absence of anyone responsible for this sort of thing. It has been one of the

huge gaps left since privatisation."

A Department of Transport spokesman said: "John Prescott has already shown his support for reopenings, and he has said that if there are not enough funds for his proposals, he will seek extra powers to make them possible."

Bic taking legal action against Sheaffer

By Martin Burrow

BIC, producer of one of France's best-known brands, is taking legal action to enforce its agreement to buy Sheaffer, the American fountain pen company.

The court move follows a decision by Sheaffer to revoke the deal with BIC, which was made in favour of a rival offer to a management-led group that has exercised its right of first refusal.

Bic said that it had raised its offer by \$2 million over the weekend. The original purchase price was not disclosed but is believed to have been below Sheaffer's 1996 sales of more than \$50 million.

A spokesman for the French company said yesterday: "Bic has advised Sheaffer that its agreement with Sheaffer management is in violation of the agreement between Sheaffer and Bic. The business is being sold by Gellman, Luxembourg investment banking company, which paid about \$18 million for Sheaffer in 1987. Sheaffer, based in Fort Madison, Iowa, sells inexpensive fountain pens as well as the more exclusive White Doves pens that cost up to \$5,000 (£3,000). The company has traded at a loss for the past few years."

In 1994 two senior executives were poached from the rival UK-based Parker Pen to restore the company's fortunes. At the time of their appointment Owen Jones, chief executive, and Shane Dolohany, chief financial officer, were granted first right of refusal to buy the company. However, Bic believed that its original offer was unlikely to be challenged.

Bic, which also makes lighters and disposable razors, owns other well-known brands, including Conte, Ballpoint and Hausner. This year it acquired Tipp-Ex, which makes liquid correcting fluid.

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BG linked to bid for Iran gas operation

By Our City Staff

A CONSORTIUM led by Royal Dutch/Shell and including BG is looking to participate in the fourth and fifth phases of developing Iran's South Pars gasfield, the Middle East Economic Survey (MEES) reported yesterday.

The two consortia have been negotiating with Iran for the second and third phase development of the field but these two phases, with an aggregate capacity of 2 billion cu ft per day, are understood to have been earmarked for development by Total, the French oil company, reportedly in partnership with Russia's Gazprom operation and Malaysia's Petronas, although no final agreement has been

concluded yet, the publication added.

MEES said that the Shell-led consortium was "positioning itself to play a major role in executing later stages of the scheme, if and when global power politics and other international considerations such as American sanctions against Iran permit". Shell's partners would include BG, Gaz de France and Petronas.

Each of the two phases would be designed to produce 1.2 billion cu ft of gas daily, together with an unspecified volume of condensate, with the gas to be earmarked for export to Pakistan via a pipeline that would be constructed by the Shell consortium, MEES said.

Forum urges tax breaks for training

TAX BREAKS for training are being urged by an employment forum led by Office Angels, the recruitment consultant (Christine Buckley writes).

The forum, which comprises representatives from the TUC and the CBI, says training should be incorporated into the balance sheet so that there are more incentives for companies to invest in their employees.

Laurence Rosen, chairman and chief executive of Office Angels and chair of the Workplace 2000 forum, said: "The 1997 World Economic Forum ranked the UK 23rd out of 33 for the quality of its training programme... and we will slip further unless this is properly addressed."

Foster's suffers 15% setback in profits

FROM A CORRESPONDENT IN MELBOURNE

FOSTER'S, the Australian brewing group, suffered a near 15-per cent drop in profits, it was announced yesterday. Operating profits rose 11 per cent to A\$337 million (about £160 million) but net profit for the year to June 30 fell to A\$250 million from A\$293 million a year ago.

The tax bill jumped after a number of years when the effective tax rate had been reduced by accumulated tax losses, and profits were also hit by a pre-tax abnormal loss of A\$41 million, relating mainly to Molson breweries. Tax on operating income jumped to A\$71 million (A\$21 million). Foster's said it was pleased by the performance of its Carlton & United brewing

arm, which increased the company's share of the Australian beer market to more than 55 per cent in the year.

Losses from its operations in China widened to a pre-tax A\$19 million, despite an increase in the volume of sales.

Brighton comes out rock bottom

By Chris Ayres

BUSINESS and Brighton do not mix. The Sussex seaside town emerges as the most unpopular location for companies in a new survey published today, trailing behind Dudley, in the West Midlands, and Halifax in West Yorkshire.

The survey will come as a shock to Brighton, which not only attracts thousands of tourists each year, but also an estimated 50,000 business people, politicians and academics who use the town's conference centres.

Brighton comes last in a league of 48 business locations drawn up by Black

Horse, the relocation company, from a survey of 1,000 business leaders.

Richard Day, of Black Horse, says: "In our survey, a town comes off badly if it is mentioned by almost nobody as being good for any of our criteria. It is based on people's perceptions about the cost and quality of local resources, transport, the business environment, the personal quality of life, government incentives and the quality of potential clients." He went on: "What people read in the press influences them. I'm sure that if Newcastle didn't have such a high profile football team it would not have been so high on the business locations list."

London comes top of the league, with Birmingham second and Manchester in third place. Other British cities such as Edinburgh and Oxford were seen as giving the highest quality of personal life.

A spokesman for Brighton reacted calmly to the vote putting it at the bottom of the league. "I'm not wholly surprised that Brighton doesn't rank highly with traditional commercial locations," he said. "It's not, thank goodness, a Basingstoke or a Peterborough. But there are evidently many businesses that value Brighton's great location, cosmopolitan buzz and great quality of life."

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ambiguous n. 1 person who writes the wrong word equally well with the right and left hands
2 words in a contract which have an obscure or double meaning.

constructive dismissal n. 1 a mass firing of modern architects (after monstrous carbuncle) 2 indirect dismissal.

compensation n. 1 that pleasurable feeling when the cheque arrives in the post 2 payment made by someone to cover the cost of damage or hardship which has been caused.

mediation n. 1 gathering of camera crews outside celebrity's home (after minor indiscretion) 2 attempt by a third party to make the two sides in an argument agree.

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Scottish business wary of devolution consequences

Michael Gove finds a number of financial institutions in Scotland less than jubilant about the return of a parliament

Scotland may be about to have its own parliament again after 270 years but there are several venerable Scottish institutions who fear the re-establishment of such a body would be a prodigal's return.

The prospect of a tax-raising Scottish parliament winning early popularity with other people's money is causing concern in the boardrooms of Edinburgh fund managers, Perth insurers and Glasgow lawyers.

Only in the past week has the price of devolution come to public prominence. The financial community has tried to bring that cost to public attention but it believes the dangers are still insufficiently appreciated by the voters.

On September 11, Scots voters will be asked, in a two-question referendum, if they favour a parliament for Scotland and if that body should have the power to vary taxes. The Government's White Paper, *Scotland's Parliament*, argues that any Edinburgh assembly should have the right to vary the basic rate of income tax by 3p in the pound and, if necessary, levy more tax to raise the equivalent of £450 million, index-linked.

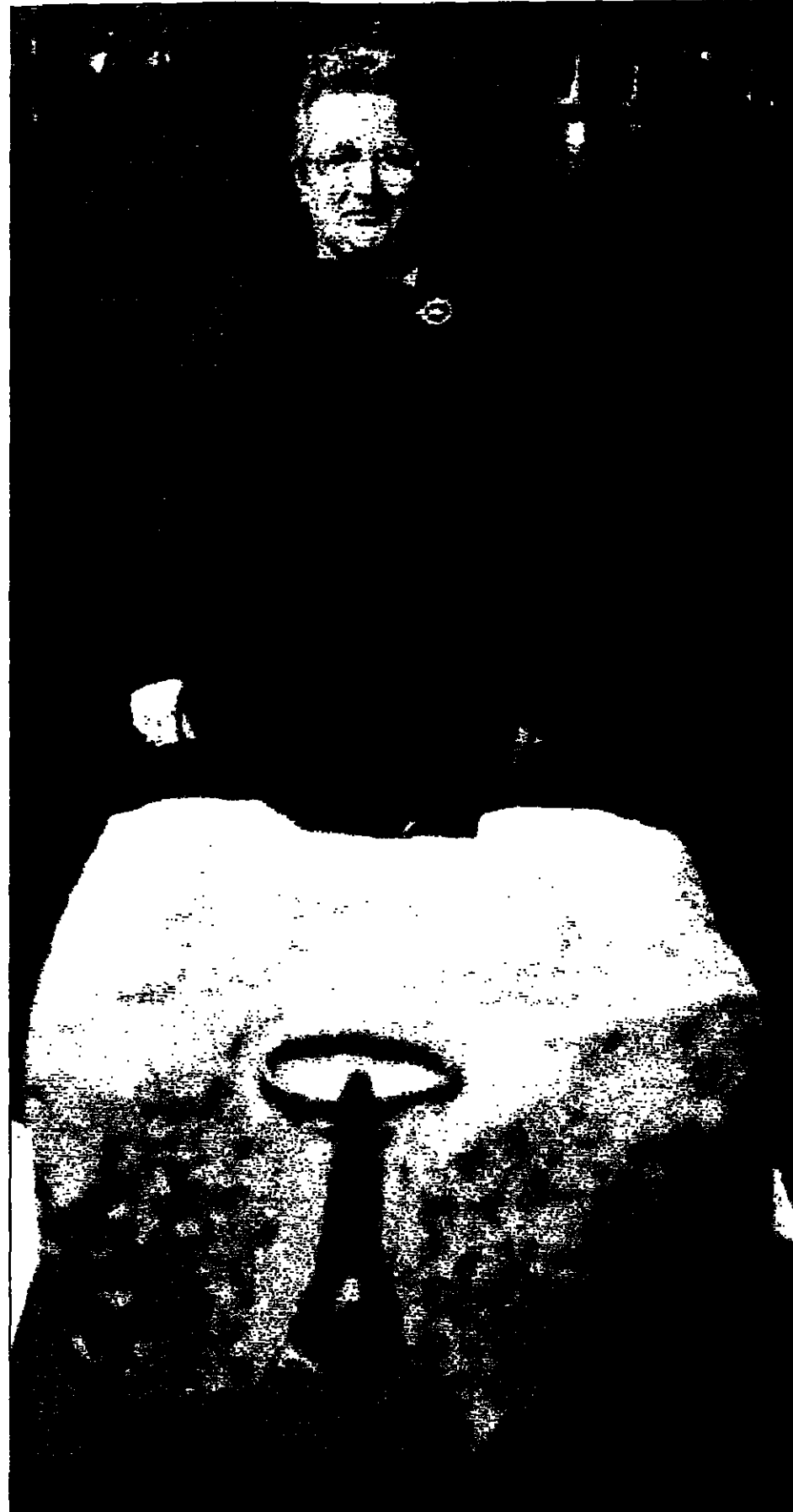
The polls suggest there will be an overwhelming "yes" to the first question and a more tentative "yes" to the second but many in the financial community feel the real result may be closer if the electorate, in the days remaining, is acquainted with the costs and consequences of devolution.

Sir Bruce Patullo, Governor of the Bank of Scotland, intervened at the weekend, with the support of his board, to issue a warning of the cost to Scotland of facing a different tax regime from England. It would, he argued, "stick out like a sore thumb", be bad for job-creation and economic growth.

Although Sir Bruce is rare among Scottish businessmen in expressing himself so directly on devolution his views reflect more widespread concerns among the business community, which have been expressed through nuances by the umbrella group Scottish Financial Enterprise (SFE).

Grant Baird, SFE's executive director, is careful not to be drawn into the argument about the principles of devolution. "Banks don't have votes," he explains. He is, however, concerned about the impact of a parliament with tax-raising powers. "The existence of two distinct tax regimes may have an effect on inward investment," he fears.

SFE is far from an insignificant voice. Finance and business services account for some



Welcomed back: Kay Matheson, one of the four who stole the Stone of Destiny in 1950, welcomes the Stone back to Scotland last year. A parliament may also return to Scotland

20 per cent of Scottish GDP and one in seven Scottish jobs. One third of UK investment trust assets are managed in Scotland.

Many of those are managed by Scottish Widows. Mike Ross, chief executive, shares many of the concerns articulated by Grant Baird. Mr Ross is pleased that, as matters stand, corporation tax will remain a matter for Westminster but contemplating the effects of different income tax regimes induces an understated wariness. "I'm not sanguine," he explains. "We need to keep some perspective but it will not make salary levels here any more competitive."

The economic effect of a Scottish parliament, as Mr Ross is only too keenly aware, goes far beyond the setting of salaries. The powers devolved to the new body could, according to business leaders, encourage a brain drain, a flight of finance as well as skilled labour, add to the burden of business taxation at a local level, create a climate of continuing political uncertainty and damage the standing of Scottish financial products in English eyes.

The prospect of a brain drain has been raised by Martyn Jones, a partner with the Scots law firm MacLay, Murray and Spens. Mr Jones

argues that the real cost of the additional income tax that could be levied, some £6 a week for a worker on the average wage, should be calculated in terms of the capital value of such a sum if invested over a working lifetime.

Mr Jones's argument will be instantly appreciated by the fund managers of Charlotte Square and it will not be lost on thousands of investment-savvy Scots voters. If one assumes a return on capital of about 10 per cent per annum, which is significantly below the performance of a typical Edinburgh-managed fund, and takes the income of an average household, then in-

vested over the 40 years of a typical working life, the capital value of the amount paid in "tax" would be £300,000. Over 60 years it would come to £1.5 million.

Businessmen are asking if a talented Scottish accountant would willingly choose to forgo sums such as that for the pleasure of seeing Scottish politicians enjoy another tier of government. Martyn Jones, additionally, points out that a Scottish parliament would not exempt personal pension plans from taxation, commenting: "I do not see how that would encourage individuals to make Scotland their primary residence."

Several businessmen are concerned that the move out of Scotland might not be restricted to talented individuals and fear that companies will relocate south in order to retain staff and avoid additional employment costs.

Even if the Scottish parliament was denied tax-raising powers in the referendum, it chose not to levy the surcharge on the basic rate, there could still be additional costs for business. A Scottish parliament would have control over local taxation.

Scottish business has been trying to level the playing field between Edinburgh and London for business rates for the past 20 years. Equalisation will occur, at last, in 1999, just before a Scottish parliament might be established, which could start increasing them again. Grant Baird argues: "At one point in the Eighties Jenners department store in Edinburgh was paying more in rates than Harrods in London. Any move backwards could be bad for Scottish business."

There are other less pressing but potentially more damaging consequences, especially for the financial sector. Scottish companies are worried that devolution will create a perception that Scotland is "semi-detached" and likely to become even further estranged from the rest of the UK.

Grant Baird is concerned that potential English customers will be scared off Scottish financial products by rivals who will play up the possibility of progressively greater autonomy for Scotland and gave warning that investments may be returned in 20 years in "funny money". It is a live worry for Scottish business and Mike Ross admits: "The perception problem is a valid concern: we must ensure that it does not gain weight."

For companies such as Scottish Widows, with many more English than Scottish clients, it is important that, in Mr Ross's words: "Everything is done to sustain the integrity of the UK."

The fact that some of the most enthusiastic supporters of a Scottish parliament are nationalists who see devolution as, at worst, a stepping stone to independence, and at best a conveyor belt, will not cause Scotland's financiers to raise a glass of Glenlivet if their countrymen say "yes, yes" a fortnight hence.

Auctioning royal history

Edward and Mrs Simpson: Going, Going, BBC1, 9.30pm

First we had Edward and now we have Desmond on Edward. Viewers who recall Prince Edward's life on his great-uncles life will remember the opulent Paris home that was the Windsors' last retreat. Now, with the contents of that marble and tile-lined place going up for auction next month, Desmond Wilcox tells the story again through the subsequent history of the villa. Mohamed Al Fayed bought and restored the derelict house and is now selling the 30,000 items, including photographs, letters, clothes, jewellery and furniture, the proceeds of which will go to charity. Apparently Al Fayed wants to use it as one of his homes. Included in the film is a forgotten interview with the Windsors by Kenneth Harris, a chat with the Duke's valet and contributions from various friends and biographers of the Windsors.

The Feed Good Factor Channel 4, 8.00pm

Mark Little goes down your way to investigate ways in which we can all feel better about ourselves as a society. Each week he travels to two contrasting communities to address problems that afflict them. Among them are health, education, transport and the environment. For the first in the series he goes to Merthyr Tydfil and Sunderland to look at crime. We would all feel better if our homes and our cars were not regularly broken into, so the convivial Australian asks each community to think up ways of stopping crime. Putting your car in the garage and joining a Neighbourhood Watch are favoured, as are better street lighting and giving youngsters something positive to do besides spraying graffiti. Unfortunately, the real culprits, disabled teenagers, did not respond to the challenge. An unashamedly populist bit of factual reporting.

Castled TV, 8.30pm

What a shame that these gentle forays into medieval murder should be scheduled for summer. They are far better suited to long winter nights when the darkness turns a perfect backdrop to the slow unravelling of crime and solution. In the last of the



The Duke and Duchess (BBC1, 9.30pm)

three, the sleuthing work is hampered by a guilty conscience when trying to figure out the fiddle of two dead bodies. The couples plot, set against the political squabble between King Stephen and Empress Matilda (Martha to you and me). Involves a really nasty girl, a blind girl, a sadistic nobleman and a couple of spies. Catherine Cusack struggles to look soulful through her opaque contact lenses as the blind girl while Derek Jacobi does his best as the habit-wearing hero. Perhaps the cast may be a little under-sized but it is still an entertaining evening's viewing.

Bully Sticks and Stones BBC2, 9.30pm

Ten children every year kill themselves because of being bullied. Many more attempt suicide. The stories of four of them are told in this first of a season of documentaries tackling the subject of bullying. As the close family and friends recount the lead-up to the suicides it is obvious that there is no real link between them other than sheer desperation. Unable to find a way out of the trap, the children were forced to take matters into their own hands. The devastation caused by their deaths reverberates throughout the entire family as the testimony of parents and friends attests. The film does not attempt to single out culprits but to serve as a plea to seek help before it is too late. Sticks and stones may not break bones but they certainly do more harm than can be borne. Frances Lass

RADIO CHOICE

BBC Proms 91 Radio 3, 7.30pm

Tonight's programme is a perfect demonstration of how to put together a concert programme in such a way that it will appeal to almost all tastes, with the side benefit of introducing hesitant punters to modern music using the safety of the real, conventional fare. In the area of music that may be deemed "difficult", there are two premieres tonight, the first performance in Europe of *Allegro Scrovolente* by Elliott Carter and the London premiere of *Disappearing The Fears* by Mark-Anthony Turnage. The more populist offerings during the evening include the solo from the Copland ballet *Billy the Kid*, a piece as evocative of the old West as any that has been written, and Benjamin Britten's *Suite on English Folk Themes*.

RADIO 1

7.00am Kevin Greening 8.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Jo Whiteley 2.00pm Nick Campbell 4.00 Mark Goodier 6.15 Newsbeat 6.30 Evening Session with Steve Lamacz 8.30 Digital Update 9.00 John Peel 10.30 Mary Anne Hobbes 1.00am Dave Navarro 4.00 Chris Moyles

RADIO 2

6.00am Sarah Kennedy 7.30 Wake Up To Wogan 8.00 King 11.00am Jimmy Young 1.00pm Debbie Tanner 3.00pm Alan 5.00pm John Dunn 7.00pm Carl Davis Classics 8.00pm John O'Connell 9.00pm Jazz Score 9.30pm Taking the Waters 10.30pm Paul Cole 12.00am Patrick Lint 3.00pm John Tennet

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports 6.00 The Breakfast Programme 6.00 The Magazine 12.00 Midday News 2.00am Pledge on Five 4.00pm John Worlock 6.00am News 7.00 News Extra 7.25 The Sunday Watch 1.00pm Coverage of Leeds v Liverpool 1.00pm Coverage of Chelsea and Barnsley v Bolton in the English Premiership. Plus news of Dundee United and Celtic in the UEFA Cup 10.00pm Live at the Ridge. Janice Pennington presents 10.00pm Prime Time Live 11.00pm News Extra 12.00am After Hours 2.00am Up All Night with Rhod Sharp

TALK RADIO

8.00am Chris Ashby and Sandy West 7.00pm Paul Stone 8.00pm Scott Chisholm 12.00pm Lorraine Kelly 2.00pm Tony Boyd 4.00pm Peter Dinkley 7.00pm Arnie Reuben 10.00pm James White 1.00am Mike Dixon

The Detective Radio 4, 8.30pm

The more I hear about criminal investigation techniques the more certain I am that crime does not pay, but the more I read the crime statistics the more certain I am of the opposite. I think the answer to this conundrum lies in the crime itself: report a murder and hundreds of people descend on the case, have your car stolen and the police are unlikely even to write it down. The connection between these thoughts and this programme is that in *The Detective*, which uses a touch of film noir to help it along, Sue Nelson answers to this conundrum by how a strand of enormous amounts of evidence about the person who left it behind, a forensic technique not commonly associated with stolen radios. Peter Bernard

WORLD SERVICE

7.00am BBC News of the hour. 6.00am News Hour 6.30 Europe Today 7.15am World Today 7.30am Songs of the Sufi Mystics 8.00am On the Street 8.30am World's News 8.45am The Late 8.00am News 9.00am News 9.15am News 9.30am News 9.45am News 10.00am News 10.15am News 10.30am News 10.45am News 11.00am News 11.15am News 11.30am News 11.45am News 12.00am News 12.15am News 12.30am News 12.45am News 1.00am News 1.15am News 1.30am News 1.45am News 2.00am News 2.15am News 2.30am News 2.45am News 3.00am News 3.15am News 3.30am News 3.45am News 4.00am News 4.15am News 4.30am News 4.45am News 5.00am News 5.15am News 5.30am News 5.45am News 6.00am News 6.15am News 6.30am News 6.45am News 7.00am News 7.15am News 7.30am News 7.45am News 8.00am News 8.15am News 8.30am News 8.45am News 9.00am News 9.15am News 9.30am News 9.45am News 10.00am News 10.15am News 10.30am News 10.45am News 11.00am News 11.15am News 11.30am News 11.45am News 12.00am News 12.15am News 12.30am News 12.45am News 1.00am News 1.15am News 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Implausible, if not incredible, but so what?

There is not much incentive to be kind to *Auntie* after a summer of repeats, compilations and sundry other laziness, but at least it can be said that the BBC habitually produces a decent Bank Holiday Monday drama to reward those of us who prefer not to spend the evening counting RAC vans along the hard shoulder.

Yesterday, Matthew Bond covered the opening of the two-part *The Beggar Bride* (BBC1) and concluded that this unlikely tale would be justified, or not, by its denouement. As it turned out, and not to be too Irish, the unlikelyness of the denouement justified the whole, for by the finish I had long since abandoned rationality to pure enjoyment. There are moments when the best course is to just sit there and take it and this was one.

The story concerned Angela, a young married woman living in

squalor, with unemployed husband, who bigamously marries a rich businessman for money, planning to walk away after a few months. Angela is pregnant by her real husband but pretends the baby is that of the rich Sir Fabian Ormerod, thus introducing the complication that enabled the baby to be briefly kidnapped in last night's episode, leading to Angela's coming up to the entire plot.

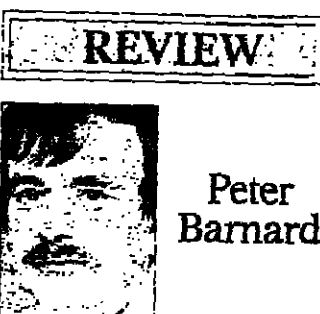
Part of the fun lay in the fact that the writing (Lizzie Mickery's adaptation of a Gillian Wemyr novel) provided the viewer with diversionary elements, mainly Ormerod's bawdy and disturbed family, installed in a country pile into which Ormerod occasionally swooped by helicopter, like an eagle bringing home the sustenance to a nestful of the weak and hickering.

So, with Angela's real husband and her single-mother neighbour

moved in as driver and nanny respectively, the story became *Chindrella* meets *Indecent Proposal* meets *The Riff Raff Element* and was none the worse for that. But there is a certain type of drama which has believability not so much in the plot as in the characters and it was here that I had uneasy moments, some of them lasting far too long.

Kelsey Hawes played Angela and her performance was everything the script called for. That was the trouble, the transition from lower-block vowels to Money-Towers vowels was so flawless as to be, literally, incredible. It was not just that Angela spoke as if to the manor born, but her entire manner became that of an upper-class beauty: posture, hand gestures, tilt of chin.

Good actresses know this trick (and Hawes is a very good actress), but people from council flats do



Peter Barnard

not. The script could have abandoned its few clichéd attempts to show Angela's shortcomings of etiquette and instead inserted a linguistic slip or two, which would have offered inventive opportunities to explain them away.

The failures of plot were less annoying because one accepted them early on. Angela magically acquires the right kind of clothes, for example, and however besotted

Ormerod was, surely a man of his background and resources would have checked out somebody who, apparently, could only be reached on a mobile telephone and who had no friends or relatives to invite to the wedding. But what the heck. Although described simply as a drama, *The Beggar Bride* had that plus black comedy and, occasionally, farce, plus excellent performances from Hawes, Nicholas Jones as Ormerod and Joe Durnin as Billy, the real husband.

One of the blessings of Channel 4 is that it is no slave to the calendar, so that its Bank Holiday schedule looks like any other Monday. Happily, this means it includes *Short Stories*, a very good season of half-hour documentaries made in the regions but deserving of a nation's audience. Last night's *The Hay Poisoner* certainly qualified.

The film was made by Martin Beales, a solicitor who found,

when he joined a practice in Hay-on-Wye, that his office had been used 50 years earlier by Major Herbert Rowse Armstrong, hanged in 1922 for murdering his wife with arsenic.

As with so many such cases, the key lay in this one lay in the forensic evidence. It was not until ten months after Catherine Armstrong had died, apparently of natural causes, that her body was exhumed and the concentrations of arsenic found. Catherine had been ill for some years and there were small amounts of arsenic in her prescribed medicines but not, apparently, on this scale.

Beales was able to show, by visiting modern experts, that the amounts and distribution of arsenic ten months after the death could not possibly be used to suggest her condition when she died. Professor Bernard Knight,

the Home Office pathologist in the Rosemary West case, described the pathologist who examined Catherine Armstrong's body as "dogmatic, inflexible and dangerous".

It certainly endangered Armstrong, for it was the only firm evidence in the case: all the rest was circumstantial and such facts as were available pointed to suicide by a woman who was clearly in a desperate condition, physically and mentally. The last letter she wrote, never produced in evidence, spoke of being "in despair".

Yet the miscarriage of justice was in some ways less interesting than the glimpse of life in a small town in the 1920s and Beales, though lacking the camera manner of television professionals, compensated by diligently researching a portrait of the relationship between Armstrong, his bedridden wife, the local pharmacist and others: dark, tense and ultimately deadly relationships.

- BBC1**
- 6.00am Business Breakfast (59171)
 - 7.00am BBC Breakfast News (7) (59063)
 - 8.00am Breakfast News Extra (7) (592404)
 - 9.20am Ready, Steady, Cook (7) (590379)
 - 9.50am East... Confirmed... (7) (591998)
 - 10.20am Put it to the Test (5766152)
 - 10.45am Carver's Caravan (273046)
 - 11.00am News (7); Regional News and weather (2503997)
 - 11.05am Die South (4) (7) (590959)
 - 11.50am Good Neighbours (5951177)
 - 12.00am News (7); Regional News and weather (4174997)
 - 12.05pm Wipeout (7) (7) (5925201)
 - 12.35pm Neighbours (7) (5951171)
 - 1.00pm News (7) and weather (59152)
 - 1.30pm Regional News (5952188)
 - 1.40pm Columbo: Faded to Murder (7) (7) (5934523)
 - 2.50pm Quincey (3783220) The Nation's Favourite Children's Book (57125)
 - 3.40pm Popeye (7) (7) (5926353) 3.50pm Pan and the Pirates (7) (7) (5926353) 4.10pm Rugs (7) (7) (5926353) 4.35pm Rugs (7) (7) (5926353) 5.00pm Newsnight (7) (5926353) 5.10pm Byker Grove (7) (5926353)
 - 5.35pm Neighbours (7) (7) (5951171)
 - 6.00pm News (7) and weather (59152)
 - 6.30pm Regional News Magazine (153)
 - 6.58pm The Nation's Favourite Children's Book (57125)
 - 7.00pm Holliday: Out Kate Humble goes sky-diving in Spain; Monty Don goes sailing in Devon; Piers Morgan visits Bodelwyddan Castle in Wales (7) (7) (5926353)
 - 7.30pm EastEnders: Try as she might, Tiffany can't get through to Bianca (7) (7) (5926353)
 - 8.00pm Vets in Practice: New series. Cameras follow the graduates of Vets School during their first weeks as fully qualified vets (7) (7) (5926353)
 - 8.30pm Tiger Bay City drama set in Cardiff's copper-mining docks (7) (7) (5926353)
 - 9.00pm News (7); Regional News and weather (4174997)
 - 9.30pm Edward and Mrs Simpson: Going, Going, Gone: An exclusive viewing of the contents of the Duke and Duchess of Windsor's Paris home before items go under the auctioneer's hammer at Sotheby's next month (7) (7) (5926353) 9.50pm Answering Bob (20249) 10.00pm Edward and Mrs Simpson: Going, Going, Gone (7) (7) (5926353) 10.30pm The X-Files (594521)
 - 11.35pm FILM: Philadelphia Experiment II (597991) 1.10am News (5942114)
 - 10.25pm The X-Files: Our Town: The paranormal investigators search for a missing federal meat inspector. Last in series (7) (7) (5926353)
 - 11.05pm Philadelphia Experiment II (1993) with Brad Johnson, Marjorie Holden and Geri Graham. Ten years after the original government experiment, another attempt at time travel goes wrong. Directed by Stephen Cornwell (595591)
 - 12.40am Weather (3750176)

- BBC2**
- 6.00am Open: University: Richard II - Character of a King (1987/51) 6.25pm The Triumph of Caesar (2241648) 6.50am A New Museum at South Kensington (594511)
 - 7.15pm See... Hear Breakfast News (7) (594511)
 - 7.30pm Teletubbies (7) (594511) 7.55pm Bump (7) (594511) 8.00pm Noddy (7) (594511) 8.10pm Noddy (7) (594511) 8.25pm Noddy (7) (594511) 8.40pm Noddy (7) (594511) 8.55pm Noddy (7) (594511) 9.10pm Noddy (7) (594511) 9.25pm Noddy (7) (594511) 9.40pm Noddy (7) (594511) 9.55pm Noddy (7) (594511) 10.10pm Noddy (7) (594511) 10.25pm Noddy (7) (594511) 10.40pm Noddy (7) (594511) 10.55pm Noddy (7) (594511) 11.10pm Noddy (7) (594511) 11.25pm Noddy (7) (594511) 11.40pm Noddy (7) (594511) 11.55pm Noddy (7) (594511) 12.10pm Noddy (7) (594511) 12.25pm Noddy (7) (594511) 12.40pm Noddy (7) (594511) 12.55pm Noddy (7) (594511) 1.10pm Noddy (7) (594511) 1.25pm Noddy (7) (594511) 1.40pm Noddy (7) (594511) 1.55pm Noddy (7) (594511) 2.10pm Noddy (7) (594511) 2.25pm Noddy (7) (594511) 2.40pm Noddy (7) (594511) 2.55pm Noddy (7) (594511) 3.10pm Noddy (7) (594511) 3.25pm Noddy (7) (594511) 3.40pm Noddy (7) (594511) 3.55pm Noddy (7) (594511) 4.10pm Noddy (7) (594511) 4.25pm Noddy (7) (594511) 4.40pm Noddy (7) 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BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

TUESDAY AUGUST 26 1997

Lower power prices hope in pool reform

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE electricity regulator is ready to set out plans to reform the wholesale electricity market, known as the pool, hoping for lower prices for domestic and industrial consumers.

The pool, which determines the price of power, has faced a barrage of criticism from industrial users who complain generators have a free rein to set electricity charges too high and that they get too many payments to keep their power stations available to work.

But Mr Bates made it clear yesterday that the pool was under close scrutiny. John Bates, Industry Minister in charge of energy, said: "We're keeping a close eye on it. The pool has the breathing space to deliver reforms that we outlined in opposition when we said we didn't favour a referral to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. But we are not shying away."

The pool has been constantly criticised by industry and consumer groups for complex payments to generators and for the fact that only three large generators set the price of electricity for much of the time. But it has a pivotal role in delivering electricity competition and so reforms are unlikely to be implemented until next April 1998.

Mr Bates said the pool would not face a wholesale shake-up while the programme to deliver choice in household power supply was still proceeding. In order to smooth domestic competition, guidelines from Stephen Littlechild, the Director-Gen-

eral of Electricity Supply, are expected to be moderate for fear of jeopardising implementation of competition in the electricity, which is due to start next April.

Professor Littlechild's autumn announcement on the pool is expected to focus on the incentives paid to generators to encourage power stations to be made available even if they are not used and the part of the electricity price called uplift.

This covers factors such as reserve generation, increasing capacity and plant adjustments.

His guidelines are likely to be announced once the supply price controls have been completed. The regulator will issue final proposals next month after talks with electricity companies.

Andrew Claxton, chief execu-

SFO Docman plan to simplify trials

BY ROBERT MILLER

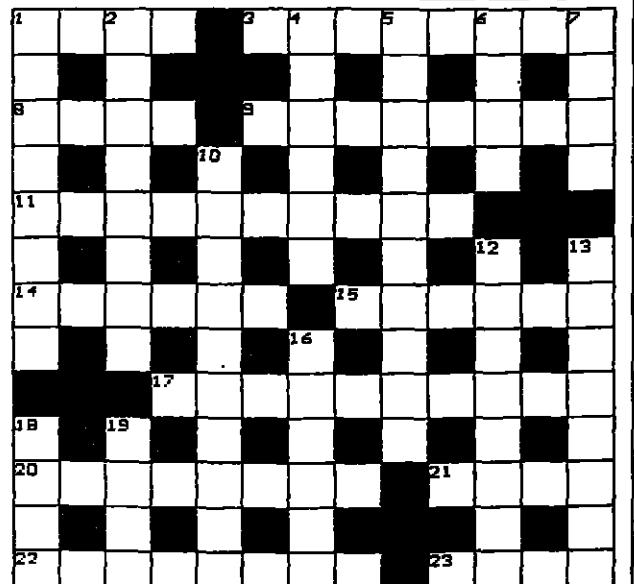
THE Serious Fraud Office, grappling with a heavy workload, is to embark on a multimillion-pound computer project designed to speed investigations and simplify trials.

Working under the Government's revamped Private Finance Initiative, which sees financial partnerships between the public and private sectors, the SFO will announce next month which firm has won the contract to implement a new system known as Docman. The candidates have been whittled down from an original list of 64 to just IBM or Unisys.

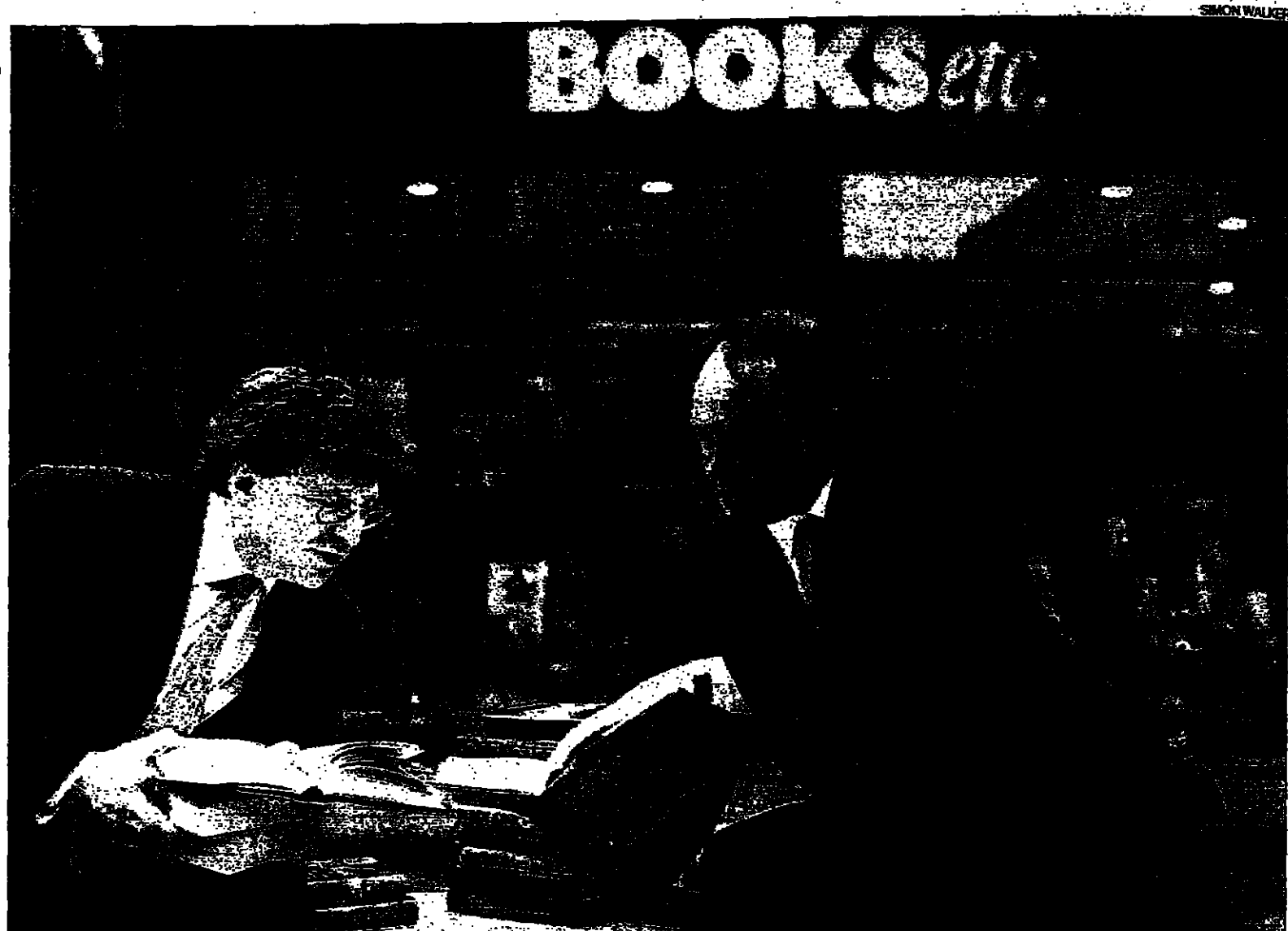
The SFO project is an image-based document management system that will handle the huge amounts of hard material seized in raids or received by the fraud office in the course of its 82 investigations and prosecutions. Instead of photostating each piece of evidence up to 20 or 30 times it will be input to the computer system to be called up at any time.

Docman is the first information technology project undertaken by the PFI. If it is successful it could be extended to all 42 regional police forces. If Docman is successful juries in SFO trials will work from documents flashed up on their screens. The SFO says that this will speed up trials and make complex documents more accessible.

**TIMES TWO
CROSSWORD**



No 1182	
ACROSS	DOWN
1 Mature (4)	1 Curb (8)
3 Hare-brained (8)	2 Take no risks (4,4)
5 Map: surgical pad (4)	4 Surprise attacker (6)
9 Outslending instrumental-ist (8)	5 <i>String-pattern game</i> (4,6)
11 Ability to recover, spring back (10)	6 Stern structure, deck (4)
14 Laughing hugely (2,4)	7 Implement (4)
15 Ceremonial display (6)	8 <i>Showbiz in-crowd: girl with a title</i> (anag.) (10)
17 Home of trad jazz (3,7)	12 Persecution delusion (8)
20 Excessive love, worship (8)	13 Mature: sprinkled with salt (8)
21 Unfit (4)	16 <i>Cattle pen</i> (US) (6)
22 Concrete, real (8)	18 Light, buoyant rhythm (4)
23 Unadorned (4)	19 <i>Exorcise</i> (4)

[illegible]

Cover story: Richard Joseph, left, chief executive of Books etc, checking titles in stock with Russell Barclay, the company's finance director

Books etc aims to float

BOOKS ETC, the London-based book retailing chain, is to seek a stock market listing this year with an expected value of between £30 million and £40 million. The flotation is likely to mean about £4 million each for the two founders when they sell 20 per cent of their stake.

The father and son team of Philip and Richard Joseph own 70 per cent of the company at present, with the other 30 per cent held by Hambro Group Investments. The flotation, which will raise about £5 million in new money,

Cash from the flotation will be used to fund a big expansion programme, stretching beyond London to add another 14 stores to its existing 20.

Manchester and Brighton will be among the locations.

Books etc said the £3.2 billion books market is forecast by industry groups such as the Publishers' Association to grow at 5 per cent per year. In the year to January 31, Books etc made a pre-tax profit of £22 million on sales of £315 million. Share dealings are expected to get under way in October.

Wall Street nerves steady but outlook still volatile

BY ADAM JONES

WALL STREET recovered a degree of composure yesterday after Friday's dramatic comeback, but nervous traders were subjected to an 83-point swing as they braced themselves for another week of volatility in New York and London.

The momentum of Friday's extraordinary late rally — where a 177-point deficit was almost wiped out by a surge on bargain-hunters in the final minutes of trading — was lost in choppy early dealings yesterday, when the Dow fell by 24 points.

This eased as the day wore on, and by mid-morning the index stood at 7,943.88, 59 points above the opening figure. However, the average failed to hold on to these

gains and oscillated between mainly single-digit gains and losses in early-afternoon trading.

Tobacco shares rose immediately after the industry and the state of Florida reached a \$11.3 billion (€7 billion) settlement to recover public funds spent to treat sick smokers. Philip Morris gained \$1, to \$45 $\frac{1}{2}$, and Lorillard \$ $\frac{3}{4}$, to \$98 $\frac{1}{2}$.

Among the stocks on the up by the afternoon were Bergen Brunswig Corp and Cardinal Health, two pharmaceuticals companies that announced a merger over the weekend.

SFX Broadcasting, the radio company, rose on news of a \$2.1 billion buyout.

Technology stocks buoyed the Nasdaq index, which had a more consistent day, rising

9.53 points, to 1,608.22, at midday.

Most investors adopted a cautious position ahead of a batch of economic data. US gross domestic product figures for the second quarter are due on Thursday. Existing home sales figures are out today.

In France, the CAC-40 index of leading shares finished 5.66 points lower at 2,898.57, after slipping from an early high of 2,935.52.

A higher-than-expected rise in German consumer prices had raised fears of a rise in the Bundesbank's repo rate. The German DAX-30 index closed at 4071.79, down 14.22 points.

The dollar was relatively steady against the pound at \$1.6070 in early-afternoon trading in New York.

DOW CORNING has set up a \$3.7 billion (about £2.3 billion) fund to resolve product liability claims as part of a settlement to bring the company out of bankruptcy.

The Dow Chemicals subsidiary said about \$2.4 billion would be made available to compensate some 200,000 women worldwide who used silicone breast implants injured them or made them ill. The balance of \$1.3 billion would be used to satisfy commercial claims.

Distribution of the funds in the plan is linked to the number of people voting to accept it. At least two thirds of women with breast implants claims must vote in favour of the scheme.

The amounts offered to the women range from \$1,000 for

an expedited claim to \$200,000 to cover medical conditions the women say they have suffered because of the implants.

Last week a Louisiana state jury ruled that Dow Chemical, which owns half of Dow Corning, was "negligent in testing silicone for breast implants, lied about the possible risks and plotted with Dow Corning to hide potential health dangers." Dow Corning is currently under federal bankruptcy protection.

Other manufacturers, including Bristol-Myers, 3M Corp and Baxter International, have already offered women fixed settlements ranging from \$5,000 to \$100,000. So far nearly 100,000 women have accepted those settlement offers.

Dow Corning starts compensation fund

BY A CORRESPONDENT

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Northern Rock members bank on bigger payouts

BY ADAM JONES

MEMBERS of Northern Rock Building Society are expecting bigger windfall payments than originally estimated, as the company makes the final preparations for the release of its prospectus next week.

The society, chaired by Robert Dickinson, said earlier this year that its shares were likely to be priced between 260p and 295p when it joins the market in October. Because its 900,000 qualifying investors and borrowers

are to receive a flat allocation of 500 shares each, this would have meant a payment of between £1,300 and £1,475.

Members who are both investors and borrowers will get a double payment of between £2,600 and £2,950.

The share price estimate this formula uses, devised by JP Morgan, the sponsoring bank, and Hoare Govett, the broker, was taken on February 7. Since then, the FTSE's retail banking index, which

has been the powerhouse of the UK stock market's 1997 surge, has increased 23 per cent.

While a like-for-like increase in the price forecast is unlikely, since the sector's growth has been spearheaded by the performance of sales much bigger than the Northern Rock speculation is mounting that the society will increase its estimate by 10 per cent or more, resulting in a handout of around £1,600.

The Northern Rock is the last of the summer wave of big building society conversions, which included the Alliance & Leicester, the Woolwich and the Halifax.

Since joining the market, only the Alliance & Leicester has seen the price of its shares increase. After an initial wobble from their



Robert Dickinson may have to revise share price estimates


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